



Hopkins involved in city schools overhaul

Governance board planned for Frederick Douglass H.S.

By CHARLES TSAI

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Following the recent decision of the Baltimore School Board to close seven public schools and restructure three others, Hopkins has joined Towson University in a plan to help manage suffering public high schools in the city.

The participating colleges will address issues of poor standardized test results, under-enrollment and violence in the Baltimore City Public School System.

"All of the schools involved will have a governance board, which may include representatives from the universities, but will also include school system officials and community members," said Robert Balanz, strategic director of Hopkins' Talent Development High Schools program.

According to a recent study that appeared in *Education Week* magazine, Baltimore public schools matriculated only 38.5 percent of students in 2003, the second-lowest rate in the country. Only Detroit is worse.

Success at Frederick Douglass High School and the Augusta Fells Savage Institute of Visual Arts will be judged by major improvements in the achievement and graduation rates of the schools with a goal to have students graduate prepared for success in college, careers and civic life.

However, specific plans have not been revealed as they are currently still in process.

"Since the discussions are on-going, the integrity of the process must be respected by not making comments that may or may not be final, said Gwendolyn Statham, senior organizational facilitator of the Talent Development High School program. "At this point, we do not have information to share."

The School Improvement
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Surgeon General renews underage drinking issue

By ALEXANDRA WATSON

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Acting U.S. Surgeon General Kenneth Moritsugu issued what he is calling his first national Call to Action on Tuesday March 6, intended to prevent and reduce underage drinking in America.

Moritsugu held a press conference on March 6 for the express purpose of introducing this plan; the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services later issued an accompanying press release.

The statement was largely con-

cerned with the consistently high levels of drinking among American teens, in contrast to what it called "a significant decline in tobacco and illicit drug use among teens" in recent years.

In his speech at the press conference, Moritsugu reported that there are over 11 million underage drinkers in America today, and over 5,000 alcohol-related deaths each year among people under the age of 21.

"Too many Americans consider underage drinking a rite of passage to adulthood," Moritsugu said.

"There's no question that underage drinking and particularly underage binge drinking is a critical problem in this country. That's true at all colleges, as well
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SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

Panelist Nazek Al-Wakeel, from SAIS, listens as Karen Stauss discusses recent shifts in patterns of human trafficking.

FAS begins with panel on human trafficking

By CINDY CHEN

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The Foreign Affairs Symposium commenced its 2007 "Shifts in the Global Tides" series Wednesday night with a panel event that examined human trafficking across the globe.

"This series is sort of unique. Topics on human rights are emerging quickly, but they haven't really been brought up," FAS co-chair Charlie Sido said.

The symposium's executive directors described in their introduction that this year's theme will be focusing on some of most significant changes taking place globally over eight events to take place over the next two months.

"We've taken a less typical approach, steering away from typical topics such as Iraq and looking instead at less-addressed topics on campus, co-chair Leona Say said. "By diversifying our theme this year, we hope to appeal to a larger portion of the student body."

The FAS challenged Wednesday

night's panel to "analyze the problem of human trafficking, what it means to those involved, what is being done now to stop it, and whether such measures are effective."

Panelists Karen Stauss and Nazek Al-Wakeel represented the "activist" and "academic" camps combating human trade around the world. Stauss works for the Polaris Project, a non-governmental organization with headquarters in Washington, DC and in Tokyo committed

to resolving human trafficking worldwide. On the other hand, Al-Wakeel speaks for the Protection Project based at the Nitze School of Advanced International Studies.

"Human trafficking now ranks second or third as a global crime behind drug and arms trafficking," Stauss said. Human trade, she further explained, ranges to cover labor workers as well as individuals involved in the sex trade both domestically and
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RIAA BOOSTS EFFORT TO STOP ILLEGAL DOWNLOADS

By KATLYN TORGERSON

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The American recording industry's largest lobbying group for has decided to redouble its efforts to prevent music piracy among college students, including Hopkins students. The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) has sent more than three times as many notices of copyright infringement to universities across the country than it did last year.

Hopkins itself has received 35 such notices this academic year, seven times as many notices than 2005-2006. Each notice informs the University that a student on campus is illegally distributing copyrighted songs, and requests that the university "remove or disable access to the infringing sound recording." They are neither lawsuits nor pre-litigation letters.

The JHU Office of General Counsel, the University's in-house legal body, receives the notices. The office did not respond to inquiries about what it does with the notices.

"We know that some audiences — particularly campus music downloaders — can sometimes be impervious to even the most compelling educational messages or legal alternatives ... we simply cannot afford to write off a generation of college music fans," RIAA president Cary Sherman said in a press release.

The RIAA attributes their ability to increase notifications in part to their improved ability to find and track students who are illegally downloading music over peer-to-peer networks. They claim that thousands of jobs have been lost as a result of illegal downloading by college students through these peer-to-peer services, such as the DC++ network that a significant number of students who reside on campus use.

Darren Lacey, who works in JHU Information Technology Security and Compliance, suggested that this increase alone would probably not lead to any radical changes in their policies toward student use of the campus net
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SPORTS

• Men's lacrosse comes back to beat rival team Princeton, 7-6, in double overtime, A12.



LAURA BITNER/NEWS-LETTER
Towson University students enjoy lunch and alcohol at Bill Bateman's Bistro.

Board of Trustees selects this year's Young Trustee

By ANUM AZAM

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The Young Trustees Board has selected senior Sarah David as this year's Young Trustee. Members of the committee reached their decision on March 5 and will make the announcement on Friday.

Every year, one Young Trustee position opens up and the Board of Trustees elects one graduating senior from the Homewood campus to serve a four-year term as a Young Trustee. The board's membership always includes four Young Trustees.

"I applied to be a young Trustee because I have gained so much from Johns Hopkins as

an institution and hope to bring my experiences to the board to repay them for what they have given me," said David, who is studying political science and ancient law.

Most trustees also serve on at least one board committee, of which there are 12, including committees for academic affairs, finance and the investments.

The selection committee reviews the applications submitted by candidates, including their essays and letters of recommendation, validates candidates' petitions of endorsement by 5 percent of the junior and senior classes and academic standing, interviews all candidates and
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Charles Village sees benefits from growth

Recent development boosts older establishments

By WESLEY SUDDUTH

The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Although several of Charles Village's veteran businesses have seen slight declines in profits since the arrival of new corporate franchises, such as Starbucks and Chipotle, local business owners tend to be pleased with the overall effects of growth.

The Olmsted Apartments, where a huge excavation currently takes up the majority of a block, are slated to begin being built at the end of 2007. The contractor explained that the project is somewhat delayed in order to provide more retail space.

"The area is a good one for business and our numbers are definitely doing well," said Jose Nabarro, store manager for Chipotle, a franchise of the popular chain of Mexican fast



JOHN PRENDERGASS/NEWS-LETTER

Starbucks was one of many new stores that opened this year in Charles Village.

food that specializes in burritos, which opened in December. It is 2 p.m. on a Friday afternoon, and there is a steady stream of customers filing into line to give their orders. According to Nabarro, the store attracts customers on a regular basis from Hopkins, Union Memorial Hospital, the surrounding community and even Loyola University. Unlike many of the other locally based businesses that line Saint Paul St., Chipotle's nationally recognized name alone has po-

tential to draw in new customers.

Starbucks Coffee needs only its large green-lettered name sign to start attracting customers, although the outlet of Barnes & Noble Booksellers, located across the street in Charles Commons, sells Starbucks-brand coffee. Among other new developments, Signature Stationary has recently opened its doors, and Cloud 9, a clothing store, is to arrive soon.

Hopkins students tend to be
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NEWS

Senior David becomes newest Young Trustee

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selects five finalists.

This year's final candidates for the position were seniors Sarah David, Kevin Clark, Claire James, Natasha Kulkarni and Brooke Nevils.

The five finalists were extensively interviewed by the Board of Trustees' Trusteeship, Nominations and By-Laws Committee, which then recommends one of the five to the Board for election.

The Young Trustee Selection Committee includes Paula P. Burger, Dean of Undergraduate Education; John B. Bader, Associate Dean of Academic Programs; Susan K. Boswell, Dean of Student Life; William T. Conley, Dean of Enrollment; and Jerome D. Schnydmann, Secretary of the Board of Trustees.

The Young Trustee position came into being in 1971 when former Hopkins president Milton S. Eisenhower returned as the University's interim president. Among the new administrative rules that Eisenhower put into place at the time was that the Board of Trustees elect recent Hopkins graduates to the board.

The Young Trustee is a full voting member of the board of Trustees and serves on a committee that has yet to be determined.

"I was able to participate in CTY growing up, which opened my eyes to a world of students who genuinely liked learning," said David.

"I got to take pre-college classes when I was older and learn what it was like to take a real college course, and now I have spent four years as an undergraduate here where my experiences have taken me to Israel, Cairo, London and Morocco through undergraduate research grants, fellowships and awards."

The other Young Trustees are Elizabeth Owens, WenShi, Christopher Watson and Christopher Kovalchick, in order of graduation from Hopkins, from the earliest to most recent.

The first Board of Trustees, composed of 12 "leading citizens," was established as the University's chief governing body in 1867, when the University was founded. The Board is a self-perpetuating body that must choose its own members, as well as the President.

"I owe this institution so much and am thrilled to be selected to an organization devoted to making these experiences and more available to others," said David. "I am also hoping [the position] entails better seats at lacrosse games because I want to be front and center for the next four winning seasons."



COURTESY OF WILL KIRK

As a Young Trustee, Sarah David will serve a four-year term upon graduation.

Some local businesses see positive growth

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enthusiastic about the changes.

"I like it a lot," said Tahnee Harrison, a sophomore living in Charles Commons. "It is such an improvement over last year — there are more options."

Ishveena Duggal, a senior living in Carlyle, is a self-proclaimed "big Chipotle fan" but she "also likes Carma's." Like many seniors, she mourned the fact that all the development has only occurred recently.

"We never had any of this we I was a freshman," Duggal said.

Though Chipotle and Starbucks have the potential to redirect customers away from more established Charles Village restaurants and fast food joints, these businesses do not seem worried for the most part.

"I think that there is enough business here to go around," said Teresea McKelvy, the manager of the Subway on St. Paul and 33rd Street.

"Chipotle is a main competitor now and business has declined about 15 percent or so, but I'm not worried. There are still a lot of customers, mainly from Hopkins," she said, pointing to the loaves of sub bread baking in the oven. "We're going to need to bake more bread soon."

Donna's, a sit-down cafe and coffee shop further down St. Paul Street, seems nicely situated to be unconcerned with the new developments. They simply serve a different set of customers. Business here has seen little change, according to Anthony Perry, the store manager.



JOHN PRENDERGASS/NEWS-LETTER

Carma Cafe's, a popular lunchtime destination, has benefited from the increased pedestrian traffic produced by recent changes.

ness here has seen little change, according to Anthony Perry, the store manager.

"Donna's has been around for 20 years and has a loyal customer base. Both Starbucks and Chipotle serve a different market," she said.

Carma Halterman, the owner of her namesake Carma's Cafe, was not only unworried by the establishment of new businesses — she looked forward to them.

"I'm excited about [the new development]. Pedestrian traffic is increasing because big chains like Chipotle are a big draw" Carma said. She hopes they will also lead more people to discover her place, too.

When enough similar stores open up in one area, it can often lead to the area being viewed as a hotspot to buy food or do some shopping, which can lead to more business for all in general,

even when the stores are all direct competitors.

Regardless of the type of business, however, there is one point of development that nearly all agree requires improvement: the Olmsted Condominiums. A development, slated to begin construction in late 2007, is in the center of Charles Village across the street from Charles Commons. It is currently the neighborhood eyesore: a square block of dirt and unused construction equipment.

Businesses have been looking forward to the revitalizing effect of the development on the community, especially because of the much-needed accompanying parking structure, as parking is a major concern in the Village. Recently, however, rumors have circulated that the Olmsted development will be delayed because the units in the Village Lofts, another

condominium structure above Starbucks and Chipotle, are not selling as well as planned.

Business owners are quick to point out this problem. "[That development and parking structure] is what we as a community needed foremost, and right now it is just part of the problem," Halterman said.

Others agree. "If our numbers are not there yet or as high as predicted for us," Nabarro said, he attributes it most significantly to the parking problem. "My employees can't even park without parking violations from the police. The police have learned which cars are ours and tow them after 2 hours."

Still, he believes that the condominiums will be built eventually because, quite simply, "the developers are going to want the money."

Underage drinking, even in bars, part of JHU culture

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A1
as Johns Hopkins," said Dennis O'Shea, Executive Director of Communications and Public Affairs at Hopkins.

Hopkins has its own problems with underage drinking, a fact that is acknowledged by the bars surrounding the university and in Charles Village. These establishments attempt to take extra precautions when it comes to checking IDs, given that many of them are predominately "student bars."

Steven, a bartender at PJ's, said "We've got a door person, two on weekends. They card everyone that comes." Since he works behind the bar, he said it is not his responsibility to check IDs. The bar's owner, however, spot checks on busier days.

Dave, the manager of popular team hangout spot The Den, also said, "We're 100 percent on checking ID; we're strictly 21 and over."

Kaili, a bartender at Rocky Run, where the customer base is not necessarily as saturated with students, said, "Our policy is to card anyone who looks like they're under 30, some of the ladies are actually flattered that you'd ask them for their IDs. But because there's always the danger that a person you don't card might be a police cadet."

In an attempt to ensure that underage students are not drinking at these establishments, the police utilize cadet checks. Police cadets may show up as underage drinkers, and if they are not carded, the establishment may be fined or raided.

"We're super vigilant. We make sure we card everyone underage," Kaili said. But she admitted that even if they suspect a state ID is a fake, they do not have the authority to confiscate it. She also said that generally, if underage drinkers are carded they don't even present an ID—they simply say they have left their ID at home. This presents a problem



COURTESY OF WILL KIRK

Charles Village is home to a number of bars that are popular with JHU students.

in that there are very few factors that can strongly discourage underage students from attempting to purchase alcohol at local establishments.

Despite the measures in place to prevent underage drinking at local bars, it is possible for underage students to find alcohol, particularly at events such as fraternity parties.

Dean of Student Life Susan Boswell believes that underage drinking is a problem at Hopkins, as it is at most campuses across the country.

"I feel that our main responsibility as a university is to teach students to make responsible

decisions and be responsible for their behavior and I would fold alcohol education into this philosophy," she wrote in an e-mail.

"Although students can — and do — drink before the age of 21, it's in their own best interest not to. Johns Hopkins students need to realize that it's not just a legal issue but also a healthy and safety issue. It puts your life in danger and the lives of your friends in danger," O'Shea said.

The Surgeon General had a similar opinion. At his press conference, Moritsugu expressed concern about a number of alcohol related issues, including the increased likelihood of life-long alcohol problems in children who start drinking before the age of 15, and the concern that underage drinking may affect both short and long-term cognitive functioning.

"The bottom line is that research provides more reasons than ever before for parents and other adults to be concerned about the effects of underage drinking on our nation's children, and to take steps to prevent and reduce underage drinking," Moritsugu said.

For his part, O'Shea recommended that Hopkins students give some serious thought to what the Surgeon General had to say in his Call to Action.

Montisugu's ultimate goal with this Call to Action is to completely change America's prevalent cultural attitude towards alcohol and underage drinking. — Cindy Chen also contributed to this article.

Symposium tackles rising global issues

Panel of experts on human trafficking discuss international patterns, efforts to curb practice

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internationally. A growing trend, the panelists observe, is one of human trade workers being brought into the United States from abroad.

Both panelists discussed that a significant part of their job involves raising awareness on the subject on many different fronts. Their respective institutions are also undertaking further federal and state legislative efforts to combat this fast-growing human rights issue.

"Human trafficking is really a modern form of slavery," Stauss said.

The FAS will next feature Jeffrey Sachs, the former Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan among the other world-class speakers for the remainder of the series.

"We certainly hope that our lineup will be interesting and appealing this year," Say said.

The symposium began later than usual this year, since the FAS board chose to devote the first half of the semester to planning for a more successful series. "We do all of our own fund-



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

FAS spent the first part of the semester raising the funds that would bring the speakers to JHU.

raising and publicity, the challenge is the time it takes, said Sido. "But we've got a staff dedicated to all this."

In the past, the FAS-sponsored series has been well-received in the community. Both Hopkins affiliates and the city have expressed appreciation for the awareness they inspire of world-wide

issues.

"We've received tremendous feedback; we've actually won the Homewood award, where students nominate the best student group on campus. We've even heard from the Baltimore community, applauding us for the stimulating speakers we bring in," Say recalls.

ERRATA

In the March 1 issue, a quote in the article "Minimal part of tuition hike to bring in more TAs" given by Alyson McCabe, the former director of the Center for Educational Resources, was not properly cited. It was taken from the Jan. 30 issue of *The JHU Gazette*.

In the Nov. 30 issue, the article "Univ. lobbyists react to midterm results" incorrectly stated that Senator Barbara Mikulski of Maryland would chair the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions committee. The current chair of that committee is Senator Ted Kennedy of Massachusetts.

The *News-Letter* regrets these errors.

Warnings on illegal downloads surge

Continued from Page A1
work. Still, he emphasizes that it is against school policy for anyone to use their networks for illegal activities, which include but are not limited to copyright infringements of this nature.

A study performed by the Intellectual Property Institute at the University of Richmond School of Law said that over half of all college students illegally download music and movies.

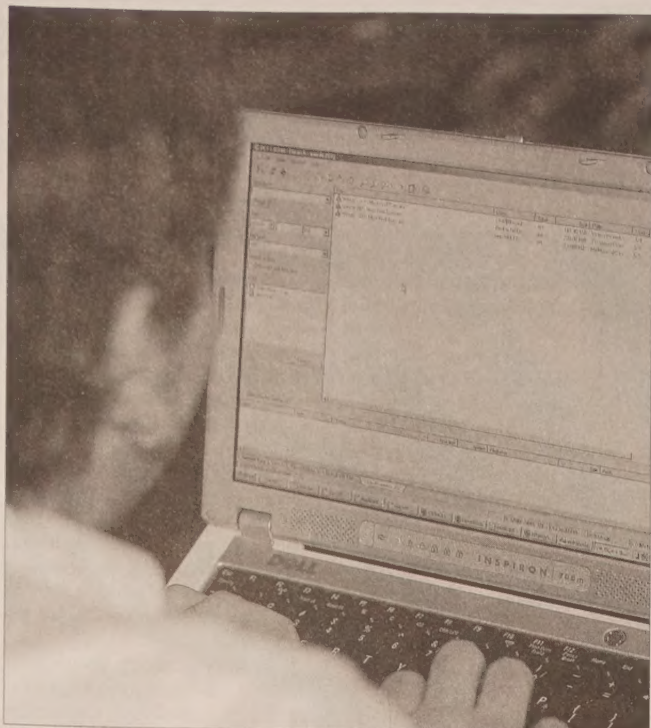
Direct Connect, the student-run network that hosts the popular file-sharing program DC++, has had a presence at Hopkins for over four years. The program allows students to upload their own music or video files, which are then shared by all of the users.

While hosting the hub itself is not necessarily an illegal activity, downloading and using any copyrighted materials from it is.

Initially, several students living in AMR II established a hub for Direct Connect at Hopkins as a way to transfer large files between each other — something that was not provided for through the Hopkins network at the time. Whenever ResNet found hub's host, they would turn off their jack. Over the following years, the students would pass the network hub between them to keep it safe and secure from Hopkins officials.

"Overall, I would describe ResNet's actions towards file-sharing as secretive, annoying to users, and ineffective. A simple email from ResNet asking to reduce bandwidth usage would be far more effective," said a former host of the Direct Connect hub, who chose to remain anonymous.

There are only two ways for the RIAA to become aware that



CONOR KEVIN/NEWS-LETTER

A study has said that over half of all college students illegally download music.

a student is downloading illegal files. Either they must be on location — that is, on the Homewood Campus — or they can observe someone while they are retrieving files from an outside source. Lacey is not aware of any incidences of the RIAA being present on campus, monitoring the network.

Without the cooperation of the University, the RIAA cannot retrieve the name of a music sharer, only his or her IP address — the number that identifies his or her computer on the Internet.

Senior Dave Haldane, who was once closely involved with Direct Connect, emphasizes that users only put themselves in danger of being caught if they connect to an off-campus hub. He explained that a few years ago, the Motion Picture Association of America found a student downloading the film *Hero* long before its release date in the United States. Although they notified the school, the student was let off with a warning.

Haldane is unconcerned about the legal issues that revolve around DC++, and suggests that conscientious users need not be concerned about "getting caught."

"Using Direct Connect is going to waste your time more than it degrades your morality," he said.

Still, the RIAA emphasizes that downloading copyrighted materials from file-sharing networks is illegal, and they are serious about their attempts to decrease it. They are also well aware that their success with dismantling these campus networks depends heavily on cooperation from university administrators.

"We hope that university administrators recognize the beneficial role they will play here — most immediately, by helping avert a lawsuit against a student, but better yet, by demonstrating the leadership that helps teach students right from wrong and by implementing the technological tools that prevent piracy from happening in the first place," Sherman said in the press release.

To date, record companies have filed copyright infringement lawsuits against students at over 130 campuses. The notices that increased seven times over so far this academic year at Hopkins usually amount to tens of thousands nationwide each year.

Univ. to help with school upgrades

Continued from Page A1
Team at Douglas High School, one of three failing schools undergoing restructuring, contacted the Talent Development High School program at the Center for Social Organization of Schools, prompting Hopkins' involvement.

"All of the schools involved will have governance boards, which may include representatives from the universities but will also include school system officials and community members," Balanz said.

However, the most litigious issue belonged to the moving of Augustus Fells Savage into Hopkins-managed Talent Development School's Harlem Park complex, which also houses Harlem Park Elementary School and Middle School. The middle school is planned to close within the next two years.

"Augusta Fells Savage is not merging with the Baltimore Talent Development High School. This was mistakenly reported in the press," Balanz said.

"The schools will share the same building but will remain separate schools, each with their own designated space within the building. They will then share common facilities — cafeteria, gym, auditorium, etc."

Community members expressed serious concerns for the safety of current students at the Talent Development High School with the addition of Augusta Fells Savage students at the hearing.

"I'm opposed to the size that's coming in and they're coming in at 700 students and I know that a school that size given that space is not conducive to a good environment, said Jeffrey Robinson, principal of the Talent Development School. "If they lower themselves down to 300-400 it'd be manageable — it could work."

However, Augusta Fells Savage principal Angelique Simpson Marcus disagreed with the numbers publicized.

"We keep hearing Talent Development say 700 students; 700 are not moving into that space — that is a misnomer — 500 to

600 students [will move into the space]" she said.

Marcus argued that Augusta Fells Savage was designed as a smaller learning community but due to moratorium and the return of students to neighborhood schools from Talent Development and other city schools, her enrollment numbers have swelled.

In contrast to the nationally acclaimed program at Talent Development, Augusta Fells Savage consistently fails to reach state expectations for math and reading.

Throughout the proposal, Robinson said that Augusta Fells Savage students would have discontent because of Talent Development's affiliation with Hopkins.

"A lot of times students don't know the relationship and will think that we get more or we're able to do more because of the relationship with JHU [and it] will make them jealous or envious," he said.

In addition to possible discontent, Robinson said that he felt attendance numbers would drop next year because his students would not feel safe because of the lack of relationships between new students.

"Every school has an attendance issue, every school has fights, it is no different for Talent Development," said Marcus.

"I'm not sure if there will be

resentment among the Augusta students as much as, perhaps, a realization to the educational opportunities Talent Development High School programs afford all students, said Gregg Howell, curriculum editor for Talent Development High Schools. "Perhaps Augusta students will demonstrate positive measures to enact such programs in their own school."

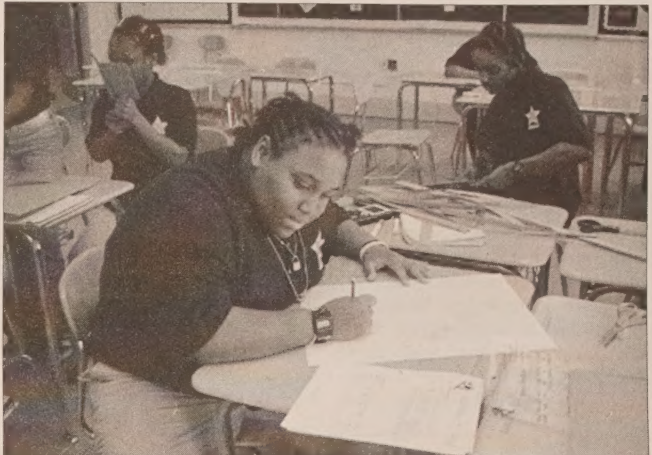
Robinson originally threatened to quit if the changes were approved but said that he would stay for this upcoming year.

"I don't want to go through a start up phase again; I'm tired," Robinson said.

"I'm looking at Atlanta and North Carolina as well as the surrounding counties in this area. I have viable options, I'm just one of the few people that try to be a man of his word. Though if the right opportunity comes along I'd take it," he added.

While both principals will meet on a consistently throughout the summer to plan for the best transition, animosity regarding the city school board's decision still lingers.

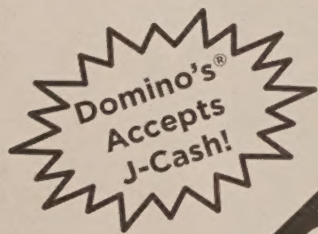
"I wish that Mr. Robinson would stop fighting this decision and agree to be collaborative — we're here to serve children," Marcus said. "The decision is not going to change."



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NEWS

Univ. plan on energy conservation unknown

By PATRICIA PUGH
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Hopkins still lacks a comprehensive strategy for achieving climate neutrality, despite recent action taken by many of its peer institutions toward energy efficiency.

Yale, for example, has seen a 173 percent fall in energy use in its dorms since implementing its Greenhouse Gas Reduction Strategy in the fall of 2005. Last month Cornell joined the University of Pennsylvania and 80 other schools in signing the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, a contract that obligates signatories to formulate plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Energy use in Hopkins campus housing has remained steady and largely unchanged in the last three and a half school years, according to data collected by the office of Energy Services. Patterns in electricity consumption from 2004 to January of 2007 follow roughly the same annual trends, measured in kilowatts (kWh) of electricity used.

Hopkins currently spends over \$9 million per year on primarily coal-generated electricity.

"I think everyone in the administration, from the president onward, recognizes that climate change is a defining issue of our time, and that Johns Hopkins is in a powerful position to leverage our knowledge base and experience to demonstrate leadership on this issue," said Davis Bookhart, Manager of Energy Management in the Energy Ser-



JOHN PRENDERGRASS/NEWS-LETTER
Charles Commons saw a particular surge in its use of energy compared to that of other dorms.

vices department.

"With an effective campaign in energy efficiency, Hopkins could use up to 30 percent less electricity. Currently, Hopkins is losing millions of dollars a year by not investing in energy efficiency," said Teryn Norris, a freshman member of the Hopkins Energy Action Team (HEAT).

The data indicate that until the grand opening of Charles Commons last fall, the Homewood Apartments consistently had the highest rates of energy consumption. From September 2006 to January 2007, Charles Commons has been by far the highest energy consumer, exceeding Homewood by around 200,000 kWh per month. Given the short period of time the building has been operating, it is difficult as of yet to pinpoint a reason for this.

Currently the fluorescent lighting in all campus buildings is being retrofitted with newer more efficient bulbs. Six buildings have been refitted so far, including Ames Hall and the Bloomberg

Physics Building. Each building takes several weeks to complete, however, and over 50 buildings remain unchanged.

"We need heating systems in the dorms that don't force students to leave their windows wide open in the winter to cool off. We need smart, automatic lighting systems that don't leave the halls looking like broad daylight at four in the morning," Norris said. "There are simple, feasible solutions our administration can take if it wants to get serious about reducing our energy costs."

The Office of Facilities Management is exploring new small-scale technologies in the interest of reducing energy consumption in both the dorms and academic buildings. Testing is currently underway on motion sensors in light switches that can automatically turn off the lights if someone has the left the room and neglected to do so themselves.

Right now there are photo cells near the windows of Hod-

son Hall that adjust the artificial lighting according to how much sunlight is coming into the building — the more solar light, the lower the wattage of indoor lights.

According to Bookhart, expansion of these technologies into all campus buildings (including dorms) is less a matter of financial feasibility and more one of the sheer scale of the project and the time it would take to implement. He believes that the most effective way to make energy efficiency gains is to encourage students to take action.

"They have direct control over the majority of the electricity consumed," Bookhart said.

A group of freshmen called the "Eco-Reps" have been canvassing the dorms and talking

to students about energy conservation. Beginning the week after spring break, there will be a "Go Green Challenge," in which each dorm will compete to lower energy consumption and recycle more.

The Eco-Rep program is in accordance with HEAT's Responsible Energy Policy, which seeks to commit Hopkins to make its energy consumption fully carbon neutral by 2015. Carbon neutrality entails the elimination of carbon emissions from energy consumption.

From the beginning of the 2006 academic year to the month of October, energy use in Wolman and McCoy Halls increased by at least 100,000 kWh more than the usual consumption; similar data exists for 2005 and 2004. This is almost entirely due to use of air conditioning, which students in these dorms can control for their suites.

"REP recognizes that while personal habits are important, energy efficiency technology is integral to any such initiative," Norris said.

Brody, trustees visit new SAIS center in Nanjing

By STEFANIE BENCA
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The opening of a second Hopkins building at SAIS in Nanjing has prompted a delegation of about 50 Hopkins affiliates to travel to China this June.

The team will be comprised of Board of Trustees members, the members of the Advisory Council for the Hopkins Nanjing Center and University president William Brody, who will commemorate the new building, which is dedicated to research and to the new Master of Arts in Chinese and American Relations program.

Hopkins' graduate program in Nanjing has been jointly administered by Nanjing University since 1986. The program pairs fifty American students with fifty Chinese students for a one-year certification program in Chinese and American Studies.

According to the program's Web site, "The one-year, graduate-level, residential program brings Chinese and International students together in a learning environment that extends beyond the interdisciplinary coursework offered in formal classes. Over the course of the year, many alumni build professional and personal relationships that last a lifetime."

According to Jerry Schnydmann, Executive Assistant to the President and the Secretary of the Board of Trustees, the trustees' more than 100 members were invited to join the delegation because it is an opportunity for them to visit a branch of Hopkins that is not readily accessible. He

said that the university makes an effort to open all dedication ceremonies and celebrations to the Board. Only about 20 members have accepted the invitation to represent Hopkins this summer.

Approximately 50 total representatives from the Board of Trustees and the Nanjing advisory council, and their spouses, will be representing Hopkins. Each will pay his or her own way, as Hopkins will not subsidize the trip.

Every Hopkins school or center has an advisory council like the Nanjing Center's advisory council that will travel with the trustees this summer. They will be conducting a meeting in which the board of trustees is invited to participate. In addition to this advisory council, the Web site reveals a more widespread council for the Hopkins-Nanjing Center. The Council's 29 members include President George H.W. Bush as the Honorary Chairman, and New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg. However, neither will participate in this delegation.

Schnydmann also revealed that he has arranged a side trip for the group to Manchuria. This is led by the Johns Hopkins co-director of the Nanjing Center.

In addition, Professor Liman Lievens, a Lecturer in the Chinese Department at Homewood, is also scheduled to travel this summer as a Mandarin tutor for President Brody.

A similar delegation represented Hopkins in Italy a few years ago when there was a celebration at the Johns Hopkins Bologna center.



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The delegation will celebrate the Hopkins-Nanjing Center's Samuel B. Ball Building.

Sigma Alpha Mu chapter suspended after inactivity

By HANNAH DIAMOND
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The Delta Epsilon chapter of the Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity was suspended by its national headquarters on Friday, Feb. 16, due to its failure to maintain liability insurance.

According to a press release issued by Sigma Alpha Mu headquarters, the chapter's negligence violated the fraternity's constitution and left no option but to close the chapter.

The decision to shut the chapter was made by vote of the fraternity's board of directors, The Octagon. According to Aaron M. Girson, executive director of Sigma Alpha Mu fraternity, "The suspension forbids the chapter for operations and conducting any chapter business in the name of Sigma Alpha Mu. The chapter was suspended for failure to meet basic operating expectations. Specifically, the chapter failed to maintain liability insurance, a required for all Sigma Alpha Mu chapters."

Rob Turning, coordinator of Greek Life at Hopkins, also added that dwindling membership in

the chapter along with a sizable debt owed to National Headquarters were also contributing factors in shutting down the chapter.

The chapter's membership dropped from 28 members in spring 2003 to only 12 in fall 2006.

All current chapter members have been reassigned as fraternity alumni, and neither the University nor the Inter-Fraternity Council will recognize the chapter as an active undergraduate fraternity. In this case, the period of suspension is indefinite; the Fraternity will need to work with the University and the IFC to determine an appropriate schedule for re-population and lifting of the suspension. However, a reinstatement of the chapter usually occurs only after all initiated members have left school.

Before meeting with the fraternity on Feb. 16, Andrew Huston, director of Educational Programs for Sigma Alpha Mu, and Drew Dunsky, vice-supreme prior of the national headquarters scheduled a meeting with Turning to inform him of the decision. Turning said he was not surprised by Sigma Alpha Mu's decision to suspend the chapter.

"Declining numbers, coupled with failure to pay bills and non-payment of insurance, usually means the group is not going to be around much longer," Turning said. "I was surprised, however, the national organization sent a staff member and a national vice-president to break the news to the chapter in person. I feel that showed some class and sent a message that this is something

the national organization does not take lightly."

Former Hopkins chapter president Arun Shrestha was not available to comment, but the brothers of Sigma Alpha Mu at Hopkins did issue a group statement regarding their suspension.

"The Delta Epsilon chapter of Sigma Alpha Mu was suspended on Feb. 16 for financial reasons," the statement reads. "The brothers collectively decided that the increasing financial burden imposed on us by the national organization outweighed the benefits of national affiliation. We still have our house on St. Paul Street and will continue to live here in the future, so from our standpoint the situation is relatively unchanged."

"At the present time, we have no time frame as to if or when Sigma Alpha Mu will officially recolonize the chapter," said Thomas Potter, a senior and former brother of the fraternity.

The national organization sent a staff member and a national vice-president to break the news.

—ROB TURNING,
COORDINATOR OF GREEK
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THE JOHNS HOPKINS

NEWS-LETTER

PUBLISHED SINCE 1896 BY THE STUDENTS OF THE JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY

EDITORIAL

Charles Village on the rise

While appreciation for the new businesses in Charles Village may not be unanimous, it is heartening to know that so many students, locals and business owners are pleased with the neighborhood's new face. We harbored some misgivings at first, worried that existing stores would be put out to pasture by the new offerings, but it would appear that those concerns were unfounded.

There seems to be little doubt that Barnes & Noble, Starbucks, Chipotle and the like have infused Charles Village with new life. Traffic at these businesses is also increasing interest in the shops that pre-dated them. It seems to be a win all around.

That being said, we are not at all surprised to learn that the Village Lofts are selling poorly, or that development on the Olmsted remains at a standstill. The area between East University Parkway and 30th street is a college town, through and through. That's not to say that others don't live here, but the Hopkins student body dominates the area. Just who do the proprietors of the Village Lofts and Olmsted intend to sell their apartments to?

Students are obviously out of the question. A \$400,000 apartment is pretty far out of the average student's price range. What is more, given the overwhelming presence of the University and its

students, few with the means to own such housing are likely to be interested. How many established adults are really looking to move into the mayhem that surrounds a University? Drunk students shouting from (and to) the rooftops each night don't generally attract the yuppie crowd.

The developers probably think that Charles Village is the next Canton, but what it really is, in the area immediately surrounding campus, at least, is whatever the students will support. That doesn't include homes they can't afford.

Regardless of the fates of the Village Lofts and the Olmsted, Charles Village appears to be heading in the right direction. Of course, there are areas in which the neighborhood is still lacking. For one thing, we await the return of Uni Mini. Even more useful would be a convenience store/pharmacy like CVS, Rite Aid, or a local edition of these franchises. Charles Village is also sorely lacking in vegetarian options. An electronics or computer store would be nice, too.

We still caution against overrunning Charles Village with big chains, but there is a place for all kinds here. Hopefully, future generations of Hopkins students will welcome them and continue to support the improvements going on around us.

RIAA invades Hopkins

The Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA) is, no doubt, one of the most widely despised organizations in the United States. Their lawsuits and threats have reached into the lives of thousands. Their shrill denunciations of peer-to-peer (p2p) file sharing continue unabated despite evidence that such methods actually accompany increased music sales and exposure for artists. Indeed, it has become practically imperative for a burgeoning band to make tracks freely available online, on MySpace, for example.

The RIAA, which represents not artists but rather the handful of corporations that wield control over virtually the entire American music industry, has, over the past year, struck its tendrils into the Hopkins community. They demanded that some 35 students cease file-sharing activity.

The students in question were sharing files using the Direct Connect protocol, or DC++ as the more popular and widespread version of the software is known. Whether you choose to share files illegally is up to you, although we certainly do not encourage it. There are many other options for conveniently and cost-effectively acquiring music and other

media, particularly as the iTunes store has continued to expand.

However, if you are going to share files illegally, at least be smart about it. DC++ users on the campus network should confine their activity to said network. The University will not reveal your information to the RIAA unless you are tracked sharing files outside the confines of the residential network. The University also won't protect you if you are caught, nor should it.

You might also consider using an alternative file-sharing service. DC++ is an antiquated technology. Other options, particularly Bit Torrent, are vastly superior in most cases. Best of all, Bit Torrent supports encryption. If you use encrypted torrents, the University usually cannot throttle your bandwidth, nor can the RIAA inspect your traffic.

Encryption is not perfect, however. Ultimately, whatever you do online is probably known or knowable. For those who value privacy, that is a shame. But even so, the best option remains to be alert, and, probably, just purchase your music legitimately.

Hopkins still a dim bulb

Every person on this campus has a responsibility to reduce our collective energy consumption, and we're all doing a poor job of it — from the bottom up.

We leave the lights on after we leave the room. We turn the heat up a few degrees higher than we need to. We use Thomas Edison relic incandescent bulbs. There are plenty of steps each of us could be taking toward improving our energy efficiency, and there's no day like today.

For the University as a whole, there's no day like months ago. For a school that prides ourselves on technological advances, we're lagging sorely behind our peers in one of the most important issues of our era. Yale has already cut its dorms' energy expenditure by 17.3 percent. We're even lagging in good intentions. The University of Pennsylvania and Cornell recently joined 80 other schools as signatories of the American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment, obligating them all to adopt strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. We hope Hopkins is next on the list.

But what we've seen so far has been disheartening. The Hopkins Energy Action Team's (HEAT) proposal for the University to go carbon neutral by 2015 was swallowed by the bureaucratic black hole that is StuCo, never to be heard from again. Op-

position appeared to stem from a typical inability to commit to simple but necessary sacrifices. Over fifty buildings are still using antiquated light bulbs. Energy use in the dorms is the same as its been since 2004, despite notable advances in green technologies at the forefront of public consciousness.

In building Charles Commons, Hopkins had the opportunity to employ these technological advances and declare a commitment to energy efficiency — in the form of a green roof, Energy Star appliances, anything. Instead, the Commons immediately became the most egregious energy-abusing dorm on campus, eclipsing runner-up Homewood by 200,000 kilowatt hours per month, and we don't even know why it's happening. That is pathetic. Hopkins needs to get to the bottom of exactly what is sucking up so much power and correct it immediately. Hopefully we'll learn our lesson from Charles Commons, and not make the same mistakes with the Decker Quad.

But despite Hopkins' efforts (or lack thereof) from on high, real progress will be made one individual commitment at a time. We all have to do our part and think about what steps — however small — we can take to reduce our own energy footprints. Maybe you don't need to run your Easy-Bake Oven every time you want a cookie. It all adds up.

Doing our best for city schools

For Baltimore's public schools, the statistics are dreary and getting worse. The most recent study shows that, with a shocking 38.5 percent graduation rate, the city's schools rank almost rock bottom among the nation's 50 largest school systems.

Until recently, there seemed very little that Hopkins was able to do about it, aside from its admirable offer of free tuition to public school graduates through its Baltimore Scholars Program. But with the University's decision to take on an advisory role at Frederick Douglass High School, Hopkins has finally moved to make a positive intervention in the city's struggling classrooms.

While the Baltimore Scholars Program — which provides grants to students who are admitted to Hopkins — has mostly affected Baltimore City students who have already reached high levels of academic achievement, Hopkins' involvement with a public school could potentially benefit more underprivileged students. This should signal the Univer-

sity's long-term commitment to actively advocating for the city's school system.

Representatives of the University will sit on a governance board that oversees progress at Frederick Douglass. Although the specific roles and duties for the University's representatives have yet to be determined in full, their overarching responsibility should be clear to everyone: to ensure that crippling high dropout rates, dismal test scores and violence eventually cease to be the norm at Baltimore schools.

While we don't expect that the governance boards will trump the high schools' existing administrative structures, we hope that the University representatives will provide oversight and accountability in the morass of public education in Baltimore. Hopkins should not be content with just being a participating institution in the city's plan to tackle the school system's toughest problems — we should be leaders in this very important mission.

William Parschalk



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Article Misstates Graduate pay

In last week's *News-Letter*, Stefanie Benca's article "Minimal Part of Tuition Hike to Bring in More TAs" cites a study in which "Hopkins ranked 10th for graduate stipends at \$25,200." In reality, graduate students do *not* all receive \$25,200 stipends; graduate stipends vary dramatically based on department. The above figure is near the *maximum* stipend JHU grad students receive; the University-stated minimum is currently set at \$13,500, and many students receive less than that. A quick Google search reveals that Benca took her misrepresentative statistic from a study on <http://wendychao.com> that only ranked stipends in the biological sciences, not in all fields.

Undergraduate tuition in fact does not even fund these stipends, nor does it fund most others in science and engineering, which instead typically come from individual laboratories' funding sources.

The article makes an additional blunder when it quotes "Allyson McCabe, a director at the Center for Educational Resources." Actually, Dr. McCabe left Johns Hopkins in June; the current CER Director is Dr. Candice Dalrymple. One wonders how and why the author solicited an opinion from an administrator no longer at the university—until one performs another Google search and finds that the author

cut-and-pasted this quote from a January 30, 2006 *JHU Gazette* article ("A New Era for TA Training" by Greg Rienzi). Lifting a quote from another article without proper citation is, unequivocally, plagiarism.

Before printing articles like this one, Stefanie Benca and the *News-Letter* need to review the basics of fact-checking and journalistic ethics.

Adam Ruben, Executive Board,
Graduate Representative
Organization

Pre-meds, too, can go abroad

When we read "Tours Study Abroad Program Cancelled" in the February 22, 2007, issue of *The Johns Hopkins News-Letter*, we were concerned by the misperception that pre-medical students are advised against studying abroad.

We were equally concerned

to learn that students feel that it is impossible to accommodate studying abroad in their academic preparation for admission to health professions school.

These assumptions do not reflect the many possibilities available to pre-health students that are encouraged by the Office of Pre-Professional Programs and Advising. The benefits of studying abroad are many, particularly in relation to broadening one's preparation for a career in the health professions. While it does require some additional planning and organization to study abroad and complete the pre-health course requirements, both are certainly possible to achieve.

We welcome the opportunity to further discuss the benefits of studying abroad with all pre-health students.

Dr. David Verrier, Director
Dr. Melinda Maris, Assistant
Director
Office of Pre-Professional
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The Johns Hopkins News-Letter welcomes letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 250 words. Letters must be delivered to the Gatehouse by Tuesday at 7 p.m. or e-mailed to News.Letter@jhu.edu for inclusion in that Thursday's issue. All letters received become property of the *News-Letter* and can not be returned. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to edit for space, grammar and clarity. Letters must include the name, address and telephone number of the author. Only one author's name may be included. Groups, teams and other organizations may not submit letters, only individuals. The *News-Letter* reserves the right to limit the number of letters printed.

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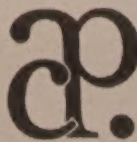
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OPINIONS

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Marc Goldwein

'08 candidates of a new breed

The 2008 presidential campaign has started early this season, perhaps earlier than ever before. The reality of the non-stop campaign is unfortunate from both a social and policy standpoint, yet the American people are lucky with this field of candidates. Hillary Clinton, Barack Obama and Bill Richardson are all immeasurably better than either Howard Dean or John Kerry. And any of Mitt Romney, John McCain and Rudy Giuliani, would, in my view, restore respect to the presidency and Republican party. A number of interesting observations can be made about the candidates so far.

On the Democratic side, the voters seem to be determined to "break a barrier." No black person, Hispanic person or woman has ever been a serious contender for president, and it is a good sign that this trend is changing. Even so, the rise of these candidates is somewhat worrisome. It seems as if the Democrats are choosing between the least African-American black man, the least Latino Hispanic man, and the least feminine woman (just kidding, Hillary).

Senator Obama, the son of a white woman and a Kenyan father, cannot claim the full African-American experience as defined by long-reaching roots in this country over a history that included slavery and Jim Crow laws. He is an African, and an American, but not an African-American in the traditional sense. Richardson, the governor of New Mexico, is the son of a Mexican and a New-Englander and cannot be identified as Latino by the American people through either his looks of his accent. And Senator Clinton, as a woman, has had to put much more effort into proving her national security credentials than any man would, arguing to the voters that she is, in fact, a "tough broad."

The evaluation says nothing about the candidates, but rather something about the American people. We are in favor of lifting up the status of women and minorities, as long as they act "like us." And we are willing to elect women to positions of power as long as they prove to us that they can be as strong and assertive as a man. Perhaps this is a step forward from where we once were, but it is still a form of racism and sexism, and we should be cognizant of this as we move forward.

On the Republican side, it seems the voters want the most conservative non-conservative. Disillusioned with the Bush presidency and his lack of popularity, GOP voters have started rooting for maverick Republican John McCain, social liberal Rudy Giuliani and former governor Mitt Romney, who can best be described as a "Massachusetts Republican."

Yet, in an effort to appeal to the conservative base, each of these candidates has made a move to the right. Romney has begun to change his position on hot-button issues such as abortion and gay marriage, McCain has attempted to woo the Christian Right, and Giuliani has reassured conservatives that they share common beliefs.

So while preference for Clinton, Obama and Richardson tells us that the Democrats want to eliminate the appearance (though not reality) of American racism and sexism, the preference for McCain, Giuliani, and Romney tells us that the Republicans have no idea what they want, and seem to favor those who aren't quite what they seem.

As we get closer to the election, what is now a social observation could present real problems. The Republican primary has the potential to be a destructive conflict over the heart and soul of the party, leaving all candidates worse off. The Democratic primary, meanwhile, could erupt into a minor cultural war in which those who have traditionally run the Democratic party — unions, lawyers, and the public sector — must fight feminists, minorities, and equal rights advocates for control of the party.

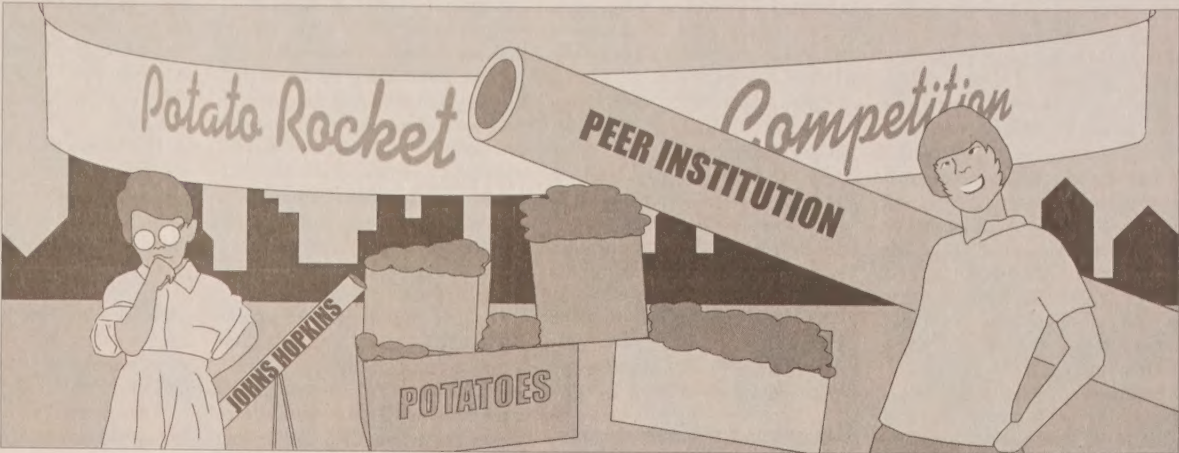
The good news, in my view, is that both sides want change. The campaigns of traditional party candidates like Sam Brownback and John Edwards, have seen little success so far. History and current events teach us that the paradigms these candidates support simply don't work.

Though I contend that our current field of candidates are born of the failings of American political culture, of our preference for tokenism over reality, I also believe the results have been positive. People, not tokens, lead countries, and in this case I think we've found six good ones.

— Marc Goldwein is a senior political science and economics major from Merion, Pa.

Simon Waxman

The cult of peer institutions



MATT HANSEN/NEWS-LETTER

and pretty much any other statistic the bean counters deign to track.

Students also play this game, and usually as a means of criticizing the University for perceived inadequacies. This newspaper has featured many an article calling for better performance within the peer group on issues ranging from compensation for teaching assistants, professor pay, student and faculty diversity, availability of housing, and labor practices. If we could compare the quantity of brick at Homewood to that of peer institutions, we would do that too.

Why don't we recognize just how infantile this kind of thinking is? This is a place of higher learning. Surely we can do better than the equivalent of a snubbed 6-year-old's bellyaching.

It is the immaturity of the peer institution claim that makes it so unsatisfying and, therefore, futile. Thanks to the aforementioned parental wisdom, we are, in general, unconvinced by "everyone else is doing it." That is no basis for real com-

mitment — be it to diversity, the environment, financial aid or anything else worth fighting for within the University.

If we want to convince each other of the need for change, we need to do so through reasoned argument that weighs the advantages and disadvantages of a course of action as it applies to *Johns Hopkins University*, not Brown or MIT or some other peer du jour. Let's consider our own problems and our own solutions. Five hundred other universities might sign a petition, but unless local proponents of similar measures can generate a persuasive argument of their own, skepticism should and will persist, and potentially worthy initiatives will go untested.

But, if appeals to the status of peer institutions are truly the purview of the unimaginative and ineffectual, why do they persist? The answer, I believe, lies in their capacity to pacify the inferiority complex that rages at Hopkins like a five-ton hemorrhoid.

We compare ourselves to the Cor-

nells and Yales of the world because so many of us wish others would. Placing ourselves in their peer group and then mentioning that fact at every possible occasion is a way of saying, "Hey, we're in the club too!" Apart from its overgrown medical arm, a bicep of Olympian proportions, the University receives little attention compared to the Ivies and other strong schools like Stanford, and for many students, was at best a second choice after those other august colleges.

But, the right advice for those wondering where they stand in the epic pissing match of academic prestige is to get over it and start learning something. This is Hopkins, not some monstrous agglomeration of fellow universities. The best we can do for ourselves is not to continually conform to our peers, but instead distinguish ourselves from them. Maybe then we'll stand proudly, on our own.

— Simon Waxman is a senior International Studies major from Newton, Mass. He is opinions editor for the News-Letter.

Setting the record straight on graduate stipends

By NEENA MAHADEV and BEN TILGHMAN

Hopkins was the first American university to be founded with graduate education and research as a core part of its mission. To this day, Hopkins is world-renowned for the quality of its graduate education. Unfortunately, a number of misperceptions about graduate student stipends, the payment of teaching assistants and the extent to which the funding of graduate education is linked to undergraduate tuition rates, have been circulating among the undergraduate student body. A recent article in the *News-Letter* made some misleading statements about the amount of money that graduate students received as payment for TA duties. The article insinuated that undergraduates are unfairly burdened with tuition increases in order to support graduate students.

These misconceptions need to be corrected so that undergraduate students

gain a better sense of where their and their parents' money is going. If undergraduates better understand the financial situation of graduate students, and how it affects the quality of undergraduate education, they will likely agree that stipends need to be substantially increased.

As stated in the *News-Letter* article, Dean Falk acknowledged that graduate student stipends are "distressingly low." This may have been cause for confusion among undergraduates reading the article since stipends were listed as being a healthy \$25,200. It also claims that Hopkins places 10th in nationwide rankings of universities for offering among the highest stipends to graduate students.

This information is inaccurate: it was evidently gleaned from a comparison of graduate programs in the natural sciences, where Hopkins does compare favorably with its peers. However, funding for graduate stipends in the natural sciences is, by and large, NOT taken from undergraduate tuition. The \$20K+ stipends that graduate students in the sciences and engineering receive primarily come from external grants through federal and private organizations. Moreover, graduate students in the sciences and engineering serve as TAs for undergraduate courses only in the first year or two, and it is only during this period that their stipends are, in part, compensation for TA duties.

The stipends for graduate students in the Social Sciences & Humanities are another story, and are precisely what Dean Falk was referring to. Graduate student stipends in most (if not all) Social Sciences and Humanities departments at Hopkins are around \$13,000-\$14,000 (which is taxable income), and are typically limited to four years. In most every case, the graduate student is obligated to TA during his or her tenure at the University, and rarely do graduate students get additional funds for fulfilling TA obligations.

Some graduate students, especially those teaching writing and language courses, design and teach these classes independent of any fully paid faculty member, yet their remuneration is the same as those who TA: a maximum of \$14,000 a year. U.S. academic institutions of comparable caliber to Hopkins, in cities with costs of living that are comparable to that of Baltimore, have recently raised their stipend rates for graduate students. Such graduate programs are now offering stipends around \$19,000-\$20,000, which makes Hopkins less attractive to prospective students who are comparing figures.

Of greater concern to undergraduates is how low stipends adversely affect the quality of their education. Typically, graduate students do not have additional sources of income from parents, high-paying jobs or other disposable income.

Some of us struggle to find sources of income to support our summer research, and pay the rent while we are writing our dissertations. Many of us need to pay off student loans from undergraduate education or master's degrees. Some of us have families to support. As a result, graduate students often must seek additional employment — often related to our expertise and career goals, but frequently not. Additional employment obligations detract from the time that we can dedicate to our own research, which means that graduate students have difficulty completing their Ph.D.s within the four to five years during which the University provides funding.

More importantly to undergraduates, second and third jobs, as well as economic duress, adversely affect the quality of teaching graduate students can offer undergraduates. Graduate students value their roles as teaching assistants and teaching fellows, consider it vital to their professional training and immensely enjoy the experience. They want to provide a high-quality experience to their students, and it pains them to sacrifice time they would like to devote to TA and teaching duties simply to pay the rent. In the end, the very small percentage of undergraduate tuition increases that might go to graduate stipends improves the quality of education for both graduates and undergraduates alike.

Patrick Kennedy

A proposal for study abroad

Despite the disappointment fostered by the Tours and Villa Spelman liquidations, Hopkins can emerge as a leader in foreign study. I know that this sounds like wishful thinking, but why not look beyond the usual full-semester options, and focus on more flexible summer possibilities? Is there a way to revamp study abroad that is perfectly attuned to Hopkins' present condition? Ultimately, the school will need a new centerpiece program, not simply increased levels of paperwork and a greater roster of third-party offerings.

In confronting the study abroad deficiencies that are finally high among JHU's concerns, the first thing the University should do is focus on administrative change. In the wake of the closure of Tours, on-campus discussion has focused mainly on providing students with more information and better bureaucratic coordination of overseas study in existing venues. Indeed, new administrators and officers will allow the university to provide offerings that are, at the very least, competently organized. Competence, though, is a long way from excellence.

There is a way to turn Hopkins into a study abroad powerhouse; however, before charting any prescription for student travel, we must realize that, while 66 percent of students are enrolled in science and engineering programs, only 20 percent of those who study abroad are from their ranks.

Among the bulk of Hopkins' undergraduate population, there is simply little demand for traditional study abroad options. This partially explains why the Tours decision met little open protest, and why the most vocal opponents of the Villa Spelman closure were humanities graduate students. We need to find a way to democratize study abroad — not by falling back on a Thomas Friedmanesque preaching of global and cross-cultural awareness, but rather by a commonsense appeal to self-interest.

Of course, pinpointing the University's interests is somewhat tricky. Hopkins appears to be caught in a double bind. On the one hand, recent events have challenged the school to defend its pursuit of "knowledge for the world." On the other, the University has intelligently decided to focus on improvements that are valu-

able to the Homewood campus, such as the renovation of Gilman Hall. It would be unwise to decentralize the school's resources or divert faculty from its excellent but small-scale liberal-arts programs, especially since the Tours program was eliminated due to a deficit of "appropriate expertise within the school."

Considering all this, I have a modest proposal. Although Hopkins supplies financial aid for the vast majority of conventional study abroad programs, the school does not provide competitive grants that are dedicated solely to supporting independent summer travel and overseas research. But it should. And by combining this funding with a network of overseas institutional contacts, while strongly tying such student travel to Homewood's curriculum, Hopkins might create a novel and academically rigorous flagship program.

While there are already internal funding opportunities for academic and research oriented travel, these grants are generally used for domestic study. By awarding competitive grants for individualized summer travel, Johns Hopkins would work around the rigidities of

two-semester engineering and pre-med curricula while creating a hard incentive for science students to go overseas.

But how do we know that recipients wouldn't just take the money and blow it at Key West in one week? First, as has been noted in this paper and elsewhere, Hopkins needs an improved overseas infrastructure. This should not be confined to partner universities, but should include museums, archives, laboratories — solid links that would aid all levels of Homewood academics. Second, demand results. The university extends independent study courses to all students (yes, even freshmen). Combining a couple of months of graded, faculty-mentored credit with substantial funding for summer travel could ensure academic rigor.

I have never questioned Hopkins' devotion to a truly international education. Yet, at this time, the university needs to rise above a few administrative setbacks and forcefully reassert this hard-earned reputation. Maybe it's time for an overseas experiment of different type.

— Patrick Kennedy is a junior Writing Seminars, history of art and English major from Watchung, N.J.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Computer program can predict breast cancer risk

By JENNY KAHN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Early detection of cancer risk is of the utmost importance because treatments are more likely to succeed early in the course of the disease, before the cancer spreads throughout the body. One way in which scientists are increasingly hoping to detect cancers early is through genetics. Some cancers, including breast cancer, can be inherited or passed down from generation to generation. Either parent may carry and pass on a gene that increases the risk of developing cancer.

New methods are being devel-

oped to help doctors figure out whether a patient is likely to have inherited a cancer-causing gene, and if so, how severe it might be and what method of treatment will be most effective.

Researchers from several institutions, including Hopkins, have collaborated to create a computer tool that may one day be implemented in cancer screening processes. The research team was led by Rachel Karchin, an assistant professor of biomedical engineering at Hopkins.

The tool, explained in the Feb. 16 issue of *Public Library of Science Computational Biology*, investigates certain "predictive features" of a

person's gene sequence to help determine whether certain mutations are harmless variants or whether they cause an increased risk for cancer development.

The team designed a computer program that can quickly detect and characterize mutations in the *BRCA1* gene, a hotspot for genetic mutations that can make some women more susceptible to developing breast and ovarian cancers. In some women, however, changes in the *BRCA1* gene are harmless.

BRCA1 mutations are capable of causing cancer because their protein products are responsible for turning on *TP53*, a tumor suppressor gene. Tumor suppressor genes are responsible for keeping in check the cycle of cell growth known as cell proliferation.

When harmful mutations occur at the *BRCA1* locus, *TP53* does not function, allowing uncontrollable cell proliferation, which leads to cancer.

The purpose of the computer program is to rapidly search through many mutations, picking out those that are potentially harmful. The program has been validated with up to 94 percent accuracy and can provide results quickly, making it ideal for mass testing of many women.

The program works by identifying a set of features that are characteristic of those mutations that are potentially harmful. The calculations focus on the likelihood of any given change in the gene, and the possible impact of that change on protein function.

"The list of features is derived from computational simulations of how the amino acid substitution impacts protein structure, properties of amino acids themselves, and patterns of evolutionary conservation at the sites of substitution," Karchin said.

By tracking evolutionary conservation, scientists can deter-

mine how long a given mutation as been prevalent in the human gene pool. Advantageous genes are usually selected, thus becoming more prevalent in the gene pool as predicted by Darwin's theory of evolution by natural selection.

Mutations that have been preserved over multiple generations are usually advantageous rather than harmful. If a mutation is highly evolutionarily conserved, it is unlikely to cause disease.

By putting all of these factors together, the program compiles the chances that mutations are risky enough to potentially cause cancer.

These results alone are not enough to conclude or predict that cancer will in fact occur in a patient. However, the computer program is able to provide valuable information that can supplement traditional testing, which may fail to be conclusive or may require too much time and money.

These new findings will contribute greatly to the ability of medical teams to predict cancer risk. The tool targets the high-risk population of women who already suspect that they are more susceptible for breast or ovarian cancer based on their family histories.

"We hope that it will be useful to genetic counselors, but expect that they will also take into consideration a woman's family history, age, ethnic background and environmental factors before making any decisions," Karchin said.

Eventually the program may prove to be a valuable tool in the detection of breast and ovarian cancer. It is possible that such programs will be adapted and expanded to include information on mutations at more than one gene locus, and therefore be used to predict the risk of other inherited cancers as well.

Johns Hopkins: also a glacier



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.NOAA.GOV](http://www.noaa.gov)

Johns Hopkins Glacier, located in Alaska's Glacier Bay National Park, was discovered in 1893 by Hopkins professor H.F. Reid, who named it for his alma mater. Part of the glacier can be seen "calving," or collapsing, into the bay.

WILL I GET BREAST CANCER?

Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in developed countries, as well as the second most fatal after lung cancer. A recent study by the American Cancer Society predicts almost 180,000 new cases and over 40,000 deaths from breast cancer by the end of 2007 in the United States alone.

A decline in fatality rates from breast cancer in recent years has been attributed to early detection and better treatment, but the fact remains: thousands of women, as well as many men, are only diagnosed after the cancer is too advanced to treat effectively.

The two major risk factors for developing breast cancer are sex and age. Women are about 100 times more likely than men to develop breast cancer. It appears that female hormones, especially estrogen, can mediate the course of the disease. Nevertheless, several hundred men die of breast cancer each year in the United States.

The other major risk factor is age. As the body ages, damage to cells and tissues compounds; some of this damage can lead to cancer. Among women, the risk of developing breast cancer doubles between the ages of 55 and 80. As many as one third of women who live to 90 might have breast cancer.

There are other risk factors as well. About 5 percent of breast cancer cases are genetic. Women who have a close relative — a mother, grandmother, sister or aunt — with breast cancer are much more likely to develop the disease.

Early detection is the key to beating breast cancer, as well as most other cancers. Women should receive annual mammograms beginning at the age of 40, supplemented by regular self-exams and doctor checkups. Genetic testing is also available. Breast cancer can be detected and managed with proper care.

— Stephen Berger

Thousands of college students are addicted to this kind of pot.

Gambling is a common part of college life, but some people become addicted to gambling and get into serious emotional, financial and even legal trouble.

So take precautions to prevent problems. Set a limit on the time and money you spend gambling.



If gambling is causing a problem for you or someone you know, call the National Problem Gambling Helpline (800.522.4700) for confidential help 24/7 or goto www.ncpgambling.org

Interested in getting involved in the News-Letter?

We have positions open for copy editors, photographers, layout editors, and writers.

To join the team, contact us at news.letter@jhu.edu or at 410-516-6000.

YOUR NEWS-LETTER

YOUR Must • SPRING BREAKDOWN

Your News-Letter's guide to the essentials for an awesome break

WEAR Chaco Footware

If your feet haven't been out of snow boots since late November, free them in style with sandals from Chaco. These flip-flops with flair come in multitudes of styles, ranging from hearty outdoors styles to the more fashionable, less functional footwear. Check out <http://www.chaco.com>, where you can order sandals with you own customized style.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://AWAY.COM](http://away.com)
Chaco sandals can look rugged, but there are more fashionable styles as well.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.ROTTEN-TOMATOES.COM](http://www.rotten-tomatoes.com)
Spring Break: it might simply be the classiest movie you have ever seen.

Spring Break (1983) RENT

The Internet Movie Database says that if you enjoyed *Spring Break*, then you would probably also like to view *Bikini Drive-In*, *Sex Court: The Movie*, and *Fraternity Vacation*. Clearly, this film is only for the hard-core cinema buffs.

Spring Break recounts the wacky misadventures the adventures of two studs who head to Florida for (you guessed it) spring break. There they team up with a pair of nerds, and then hijinks ensue. This film is a good bit of mindless fun when you just want to veg out on the couch for a couple hours.

READ Same Time, Same Station

When in the midst of a lengthy *Boy Meets World* marathon this break, if you're wondering why you're so addicted to TV, then check out *Same Time, Same Station: Creating American Television, 1948-1961*. The Hopkins Press published this book from James L. Baughman, and provides a fun look at the evolution of television since the 1950s, showing how television has managed to become a major part of American households.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://CONCISE.BRITANNICA.COM](http://concise.britannica.com)
Learn about the evolution of television with the book *Same Time, Same Station*.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.MYSPACE.COM](http://www.myspace.com)
The cover of Jon Campolo's debut self-titled CD, a perfect match for the beach.

Jon Campolo LISTEN

New Hampshire native Jon Campolo sings in a folksy style reminiscent of John Mayer, Jack Johnson and other singer-songwriters. Campolo's mix of talented guitar work and soothing vocal work makes his music perfect for a road trip car ride or for simply lounging on the beach to work on your tan. His self-titled EP is now available on iTunes.

WANT TO CONTRIBUTE TO YNL?

Send your funny pictures and insightful articles to your.nl@gmail.com.

Learn to celebrate Make Up Your Own Holiday Day

After spring break, it seems like such a long stretch until the next big holiday celebration. Sure, we've got lacrosse games and the resultant celebrations, but after the holiday rush of the winter season, the post-spring break let down can seem to stretch on for ages, with the respite of summer too far away.

Now, enter a holiday so awesome, so inspiring and so completely kick-ass that I bet you've never even heard of it before.

March 26 is Make Up Your Own Holiday Day.

This sacred day was the brainchild of an organization known as the Wellness Permission League, but don't let their Orwellian name scare you away - the group is dedicated to creating random and wacky holidays just because they can.

This day is completely and totally dedicated to you, and only you. You decide what to

celebrate. You decide the customs. You can demand that others give you presents. You can order others to lay down along the paths so you do not have to step in puddles. Do you feel that? It's the rush of complete and total freedom, and it's less than twenty days away.

And who better, really, to celebrate a day that is completely random and up to you than college students? We'll take any excuse to party, unwind and avoid the mounds of work that loom menacingly from our desks.

Maybe for you March 26 is "Me Day," where you can celebrate yourself. Go out and splurge on a trip to the hair stylist or get a massage from whatever organization happens to be offering it that week.

Or maybe March 26 could be "Bonding Day." Get your Mr. Rogers on and invite the neighbors over for food

and alternative beverages. You pass these people in the hallway everyday and rarely have an interaction beyond the usual customary "Hello." Take a day just to get to know the folks you live with.

As for me, I'll be celebrating Make Up Your Own Holiday Day as Classic Cheesy Eighties Music and Movies Day. I'll be marathon watching *Footloose* and *Heathers*, then dancing spastically around my room to every bad, overly technological eighties song that was ever spawned from that decade. Who knows, maybe I'll even bust out the spandex and gigantic side ponytail. I'll go nuts, and you know why? Because it's my holiday, and I'll do what I want.

(Note: Make Up Your Own Holiday Day is not recognized as a federal holiday, so don't try to take the day off of school.)

— Marie Cushing

YOUR weird

Unlikely friendship

A unique set of playmates is turning heads in Indonesia. Two young orangutans have bonded with a pair of month-old Sumatran tiger cubs. This only-in-captivity friendship formed because both pairs of animals share a nursery space. Nia and Irma, the two 5-month-old baby apes, and tiger twins Dema and Manis have been living in the Taman Safari zoo. The foursome is currently engaged in play fights and curl up together to sleep. Both species are highly endangered - scientific estimates claim that thanks to poaching and the destruction of forest land, there are currently fewer than 700 Sumatran tigers and 60,000 orangutans in the entire world. This special pairing will eventually have to be separated when the tigers start eating meat in two months.



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.SFGATE.COM](http://www.sfgate.com)
Two tiger cubs has bonded with a set of orangutans in an Indonesian zoo.

Let the squirrel sexual revolution begin!

Santa Monica squirrels will now be receiving birth control shots in a new plan to stop the population explosion. Over 1,000 of the rodents can be found in Palisades Park. The previous tactics for population control, including poison, gassing and euthanasia, which upset animal-rights activists, will now be replaced with a side-effect free shot costing \$2 to \$10.

— <http://www.usatoday.com>

Snow angel battle heats up

Over 8,900 people gathered in Bismarck, ND, in an attempt to reclaim the world record for the most snow angels made. The town originated the category when 1,791 people gathered in Bismarck in 2002, but lost the title to 3,784 students at Michigan Technological University in Houghton. The Guinness Book of Records still needs to verify the count, but Michigan Tech students have already begun planning how to top the Bismarck turnout.

— <http://www.usatoday.com>

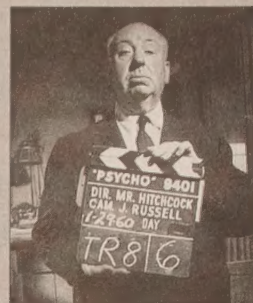
Carnivorous cow eats 48 chickens

The mysterious disappearance of 48 chickens from a village in Chandpur, India, has been traced back to a cow. The owner of the chickens thought local dogs were responsible for the deaths, so he was shocked to see his own cow chomping down on chickens. Local veterinarians believe the cow's behavior could be caused by a mineral imbalance. The cow, whose name is Lal, is sacred to the Hindi family that owns her and has attracted visitors from throughout India.

— <http://www.reuters.com>

Today's holiday is Be Nasty Day

More bizarre March holidays:



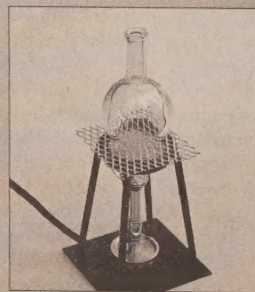
COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.PEELE.NET](http://www.peele.net)

March 12: Alfred Hitchcock Day



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.YUMBROSIA.COM](http://www.yumbrosia.com)

March 28: Something on a Stick Day



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.DEMOCRATICUNDERGROUND.COM](http://www.democraticunderground.com)

March 31: Bunsen Burner Day

The weirdest holidays of the month, from <http://www.bizarrenews.com>

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Magic Bus

Key to the Highway

No Particular Place to Go

Six Days on the Road

Road Tripping

Hey Porter

The Beatles

Whitesnake

Tracy Chapman

Led Zeppelin

Dixie Chicks

The Who

Freddie King

Chuck Berry

Taj Mahal

Red Hot Chili Peppers

Johnny Cash



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.CYBER-CINEMA.COM](http://www.cyber-cinema.com)
The Beatles might need to borrow a car for this road trip.

The Distance

Middle of Nowhere

Ca

Hot Hot Heat

I've been everywhere, man...

SPORTS

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK
STEVE BOYLE, MEN'S LACROSSE

There's nothing "fresh" about seasoned Boyle

By MARY DOMAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Get ready for a new kind of freshman orientation. This week's lesson will be led by Steve Boyle, a first-year student-athlete here on campus. Steven's got a lot of wisdom for a mere freshman, and he's come up with quite an agenda.

First off, a newcomer to Hopkins should settle in. Boyle knows all about settling — sure, he's placed his shirts, Easy Mac and micro-fridge strategically around his cozy Wolman dorm room. He's memorized his schedule and pinpointed the best times to dine at Fresh Food Café. What Boyle settles best though, are lacrosse balls. In goals, that is. He makes sure to perfectly settle the ball in the net, often times settling the score as well. Take for instance Saturday's game against ... oh, only the top team in the nation.

As the first half of the game came to a close, the Blue Jays were trailing Princeton 2-3. Boyle not only settled that ball in its comfy home of mesh netting but also made sure to take care of the scoreboard before halftime. Every Hopkins freshman needs to learn how to plan. Boyle also knows a few things when it comes to planning. This student athlete has learned to juggle a whopping four classes, daily practice, and a girlfriend. Not to mention extracurricular activities on Saturday nights!

"When you have to get stuff done, you have to get stuff done," Boyle said. If you can't handle the profundity of Boyle's wisdom, I encourage you to stop reading this article right now. What Boyle has mastered besides NHL 07 is how to carry himself at all times. He's modest, collected, mature and respectful. Do keep in mind that we're talking about a freshman here. But don't take my word for it. Listen to his junior teammate George Castle.

"It is sometimes hard being a freshman at this level, but I think Steve is handling it nicely," Castle said. "He is a nice kid and great to be around."

As a freshman, one must show respect for one's older, more knowledgeable colleagues. And even though Boyle has already proven that he is wiser than most first-year students, he's quick to give credit to his inspiring older teammates.

"I look up to [senior] Jake Byrne, [junior] Paul Rabil and [senior] Steve Peyser," Boyle said. "They're hard workers and set things up for the team."

He also appreciates Hopkins' exquisite coaching staff.

"The coaches are really great," Boyle said. "They teach us a lot [and] they obviously have a great knowledge about the sport."

What does this fountain of wisdom wish for his team's future?

"I'd like to go to the Final Four and try to win the National Championship," Boyle said. In order to achieve this, Boyle plans on tweaking a few specific areas of his game, specifically, his offensive proficiency.

"I'd like to improve my shooting skills," Boyle said.

From Saturday's performance, however, it seems like Boyle's shooting skills need little adjustment, as Boyle zipped in three goals and was named the *Inside Lacrosse* Classic Player of the Game.



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

And though this may be his first major contribution to the Hopkins' team, Boyle has been helping out since he began playing in sixth grade. After an eight-year career, the wise one has developed quite a passion for lacrosse.

That's another thing Boyle understands that many freshmen still battle — understanding and following his passion. True, he may not know his major yet, or be able to articulate exactly why

he adores the game so much. But he does what he loves, without even thinking about it on or off the field. It's a blind commitment that many skeptical Hopkins freshmen aren't willing to make.

"He plays like a veteran," junior long-stick midfielder Matt Bockett said. True, Boyle has shown the student body that he has the wisdom and skills of no average freshman. But don't think this athlete of eighteen years is too old for his age. Finally, after accrediting teammates, mentioning areas for improvement, emphasizing time management and naming goals for the future, he exposes his more freshman-like feelings about the weekend.

"Yeah, it was a pretty cool feeling I guess," Boyle said. Spoken like a senior sage.

VITAL STATISTICS

Year: Freshman
Major: Undecided
Position: Attack

Hopkins Highlights:
Scored three goals in Hopkins' 7-6 victory against No. 1 Princeton.

Hey Hopkins, show up or get shown up

Please close your eyes for just a second. Shoot, wait. Open those eyes! Doggonnit, now most of you won't be able to read this. Aw shucks. For those of you who didn't follow my faulty first direction (the wisest of my small group of readers, I suppose), I ask that you instead imagine for a short time, with your bulbs bursting from their sockets, that you are magically transported to the environment that I am about to describe to you. Try to hypothetically take in all the sounds and the smells of these conjured surroundings. Really make an effort to get into the moment so that when people see you consumed by this brief ideal existence, they'll slap you straight across the face or hurl a whole slew of obscenities at you.

Here it is: You're in a gymnasium. Before you lies a spotless hardwood floor, mopped so shiny that you can see the reflection of a cartoonish glint from your freshly brushed teeth. The lights that shine down on you are blindingly bright, not because you've developed a temporary sensitivity to the hanging luminosities, but because you are standing at the tippy-top of a crowded set of blue bleachers. The curved plastic "ground" below you starts to quake, your legs wobbling back and forth from the reverberations, as the people packed in the stands begin to stomp and shout. Your ears are attacked by eclectic pronunciations and endless clapping routines.

Emerging from the corner of the gym are 15 burly men adorned in tight-fitting jumpsuits dribbling leather balls. And then: a deafening roar! The man to your left begins to foam at the mouth from his uncontrollable excitement, while the girl to your right is downright hysterical, screeching so loud and so high that her uvula palatina is shaking at a rate of a thousand times per second. Unsure of what to do or even how to react, a previously unknown force from within compels you to raise your arms and commence jumping. Soon your whole body becomes wracked

with frenetic energy. The pungent smell of human perspiration overwhelms your nostrils. Your head begins to swirl. "This ... this is madness!" you exclaim. To that, the mascot dressed in his avarian costume removes his detachable head, turns around to you, and says, "Yes, *March Madness*."

The aforementioned scene occurred at the Goldfarb Gymnasium last Friday night when the men's basketball team took on Villa Julie in the first round of the Division III NCAA Tournament. With over 1,500 of the Hopkins faithful present — young and old,



Matthew E. Murray
Ruffled Feathers

fair-weather and steadfast — the atmosphere became simply electric. There was a united community of periwinkle blue chanting in unison, an overflow of rowdy fanatics constantly breaching the court boundaries, a pumped-up team battling back from a seemingly insurmountable deficit, and a spirit that I had never known existed here at Homewood. Heck, there was even a pathetic attempt to storm the court after the victory.

As I watch other mid-major colleges like tiny Davidson (1,700 undergraduates) and small Belmont (4,500) revel in the joys of winning their respective conference tournaments, I wonder where that kind of fanatic ecstasy can be had at Hopkins. Save for the occasional lacrosse match and last week's rare thrill, there seems to be a genuine disinterest in sports among the student population. The "madness" that seems to overtake other schools when football season rolls around or when midnight

practices mark the start of the basketball schedule is generally missing from the unaffected Jays who saunter the campus' brick-laden paths. The only "madness" people seem to be overcome by is that of a finals-week pressure-cooker or midterm panic. Cheering or exhibiting some level of support at athletic contests is so scarce that D-level, more often than not, has more people in attendance than a men's soccer championship contest or a critical water polo game would. For this, I am ashamed.

I refuse to hang my head low for long. No, instead, I want to celebrate the great turn-outs at Saturday's lacrosse match and the two men's basketball tournament games this past weekend. I want to encourage future support for Hopkins athletics and increase the amount of school spirit. I desire to administer shots of a virus called "Blue Jay fever" to every registered freshman, sophomore and junior. Okay, maybe that's taking it too far.

What I'm suggesting is that perhaps there are ways to lure people to the stadium or the gym from out of the dungeon that is the Hut. Let's make it a requirement for resident advisors to organize a floor-wide spirit weekend to get people feeling like there is some connection between their neighbors and the teams that represent their school.

Let's get the faculty involved. Those pretty little million-dollar professors don't need to be researching and book-reading all the time. How about dunk tanks? Trampolines? Fist fights? Let's capture a wild blue jay (or if we can't find that, a Baltimore rat will do) for every sporting event and set it free during an arbitrary intermission. Freeing live animals always has a liberating effect for onlookers. Let's get a professional sports figure to deliver our commencement address. See, we can already check one off the list.

In the end, I guess I just want to imagine that I'm still stuck in the stands at last Friday's game again.

I think I'll close my eyes now.

W. Fencing is best in D III; men take third at MACFA

By DEMIAN KENDALL
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Coach Jim Murray of the women's fencing team walked off the bus at 6 o'clock Sunday morning with blue hair and a smile on his face. Before the team left for the National Intercollegiate Women's Fencing Association (NIWFA) Championships at Smith College in Northampton, Mass., Murray promised his team that if they won some trophies, they could dye his hair blue. Whether it was for personal glory or simply the thought of seeing their coach resemble a Smurf, the team rose to the challenge in full force, finishing 17-1 for the tournament, and placing second overall in the team competition, once again winning the coveted Army Trophy. So too did the men's team enjoy success, albeit with less hair discoloration.

They fought to a third-place finish at the Mid-Atlantic Collegiate Fencing Association (MACFA) Championships in Madison, N.J. this past Saturday.

We weren't fencing to come in second. We were fencing to win.
— WOMEN'S HEAD COACH JIM MURRAY

The Lady Jays' performance won them the Division III title, establishing the team as the top Division III school in the entire nation. The Blue Jays' only loss came at the hands of Temple University, the only D-I team in the tournament.

"We were really looking to upset Temple," Murray said. "We weren't fencing to come in second. We were fencing to win."

Both the sabre and foil teams finished second in the team competition, and in the individual competition, five of the Jays' nine fencers fought their way into the finals. Sophomore sabre Erica Hartmann finished with a second-place medal and sophomore foil Grace Fried finished fourth. All eyes, however, were on senior sabre and team captain Sarah Smilow as she raked in the fourth place prize, winning her seventh NIWFA medal in her four-year career. The example set by the team's upperclassmen provoked a truly stellar performance from the Blue Jays' freshman squad.

Freshman foil Katie Kim had a phenomenal day, finishing the tournament undefeated in the C-strip of the team division. With each win, Murray would approach the young fencer with the same incantation: "Smooth. Repeat after me. I'm so smoooooth!" Despite her amazing performance, the humble Kim could only praise her coach and fellow teammates.

"The team's doing really well," she said. "As a freshman coming in and not knowing a whole lot, they were really helpful throughout the season." Freshman foil Sa-

mantha Dolan also had a tremendous performance, finishing first in the B-strip of the team competition and top 16 in the individual. "I didn't do as well as I would have liked, but there's always next year," Dolan said. "It was a really long day, but I think it was worth it. I think this is the best we've ever done under Coach Murray." Five Lady Jays — Smilow, Hartmann, Fried, Kim and Dolan — qualified for the NCAA Regional Tournament, and will make the trip up to Teaneck, N.J., this coming Saturday.

The men's fencing team also had an outstanding tournament, finishing third in the team competition at the MACFA Championships. The foil team finished second for the evening, the épée team third and the sabre team fourth. But solid results aside, the competitive squad still wanted bigger and better things.

"We hoped to finish higher," men's head coach Austin Young, said. "We weren't entirely satisfied, but everyone fenced hard."

The team was led by the strong performance of sophomore foil Ben Dorfman, who finished 11-3 in the A-strip division. Junior sabre and co-captain Jake Sand and sophomore épée Dan Schiro both finished 11-2 in the B-strip division, and sophomore foil David Ferguson finished the day undefeated in the C-strip division. Although all four of the fencers qualified for the individual competition to be held later in the day, snowstorms and icy roads forced the team to pack up their bags and make the trip back to Baltimore before they could compete.

With the team's regular season at its end, Young was extremely proud of his team. "We had a very young team with only four seniors, two of whom were starters," Young said. "We made a lot of improvement throughout the year, and we can only go forward going into next season."

"This was the most exciting season I've been through," senior foil and co-captain Nick Marchuk said. "We've gotten better each year, and I've really enjoyed taking the leadership position this year."

The men's qualifiers will accompany the Lady Jays up to Teaneck, N.J., for the NCAA Regional Championship this coming weekend. "I'm pretty psyched [about the tournament]," sophomore foil David Ferguson said. "I don't have the best seed, but I certainly have a good chance to do well."

Will he do well enough for Young to adopt a hairstyle to match his women's team counterpart? We'll find out.

M. Lax tops Princeton in double-OT nailbiter

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12
4-2, to knot the game up at 5-5. Of those five goals, three were scored by freshman attacker Steven Boyle, for whom the Tigers' defense just did not seem to have a solution.

In the fourth quarter, only two goals were scored, and, for the last seven minutes of the quarter, the game remained tied at 6-6, leading to overtime. In front of the largest regular season crowd (20,180) in college lacrosse history, both Hopkins and Princeton put on a show in regulation. But it was the encore — the pair of sudden-death over-times — that provided even greater excitement.

In the first overtime, Princeton won the face-off and immediately tried to end the game. But even in the face of the Tigers' powerful offensive push, an equally strong effort by Schwartzman and the defense met the challenge. Princeton could not get the game-winner.

"They controlled possession for the whole first OT but Jesse played great," Byrne said. "The whole team had confidence in both him and our defense that they would get us the ball back."

After winning the face-off in the second overtime, the Blue Jays made an effort to end the game as soon as they could. After a close miss by Byrne, the ball rebounded into Pevser's stick. Pevser made



CONOR KEVIN/NEWS-LETTER

Senior long-stick midfielder Brendan Skakandi knocks the ball loose from a Tiger.

the perfect pass to fellow junior midfielder Paul Rabil in prime position. Rabil then unloaded for his second goal of the game. Hopkins 7, Princeton 6.

"Stephen made the best play [of the sequence]," associate head coach Bill Dwan said. "It was chaotic, but he was able to make the pass. It was a scramble situation that went our way."

It was a big play in a big game, enough to give the Blue Jays a strong boost coming off the disappointing Albany loss.

"The energy was there," Kimmel said. "It was a huge win to rebuild our confidence and get back on the right track."

With the past week's two wins, especially the one against Princeton, that track seems quite ready for a long ride, one that may end up back at M&T Bank Stadium in late May for the NCAA Championships.

Hopkins next suits up at home against a Hofstra squad led by former assistant head coach Seth Tiernev this Saturday at 12 p.m.

SPORTS

W. Lacrosse can't handle Tigers' roar

Track & field wraps up indoor season at ECACs

By ALEXANDER IP
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Sometimes your best just isn't enough. This proved to be the case for the women's lacrosse team, who suffered an 11-10 triple overtime loss at Princeton on Saturday. Despite playing one of the most hard-fought games in their team's history, the Lady Jays could not overcome the stalwart Princeton Tigers.

Refusing to let one tough loss spoil their season, the Jays managed to recover nicely with a lop-sided 18-5 victory against Mount St. Mary on Tuesday afternoon.

Right up until the very end of the game against the Tigers, the Jays matched every Princeton drive. The teams assembled nearly identical game statistics. However, in the categories of draw controls, shots on goal, and turnovers, the Lady Jays were slightly outdone by Princeton. These seemingly miniscule items offer the only viable pieces of evidence to reason why the Jays were finally defeated.

"It was such a heartbreaking loss. The [girls] fought with everything they had in them," head coach Janine Tucker said. "I was very proud of their effort."

The numbers on the scoreboard at the end of the game did not reflect the good start the Lady Jays had early in the match. Citing a need last week to come out firing, the team has worked continuously on beginning each game playing aggressively, and did so against the Tigers.

Though it was hastily taken away from them, the Jays entered the second half with a tenuous 6-5 lead. Princeton pulled ahead just minutes later, but Hopkins grabbed the lead back with a two-goal barrage in the span of one minute.

The Jays and Tigers continued to trade possessions until junior midfielder Kadie Stamper found the back of the net for Hopkins' ninth point, giving the Jays a tight one-goal advantage with 11 minutes remaining.

The Lady Jays were able to



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER
Freshman midfielder Paige Ibello scoops up a loose ball under the pursuit of a Mason defender. Hopkins won the contest, 9-7.

hold the Tigers at bay for 10 of the 11 minutes. But the final 60 seconds turned chaotic as the Jays fell short of sealing the deal due to some untimely sloppy stick-work. Princeton scooped up the ground ball and quickly executed a drive that tied the score at nine and forced the squads into overtime.

"The play at the end of [regulation play] when we had possession with 35 seconds left and turned the ball over was a critical play," Tucker said. "Our turnovers factored the most in the loss. We must take better care of the ball and not put so much pressure on our defense."

The Jays were diligent in their extra-time possessions, drawing an immediate 10-9 lead in overtime. The Tigers were unable to hit the back of the cage until the second overtime period, thanks to sophomore goalie Amelia Harris, who had an eight-save effort

on the day.

With the game tied in sudden-death triple overtime, Hopkins sole opportunity to win in the period was shot down, as senior attacker Mary Key's free-position shot only a short distance in front of the net was blocked. And just when it looked like the game would end in a draw, Princeton sophomore midfielder Holly McGarvie completed her hat trick with the walk-off game winning score.

Key, who requires no introduction in the confines of the lacrosse field, did her best to keep the flame from last week's victories going by netting the first goal against Princeton. When all was said and done, Key also added another hat trick to her sterling resume, supplementing the goals with five assists in the game.

Against Mount St. Mary, Key topped the list of all-time career points scored with her current

total, 291. She has also led the Jays in goals per season since her freshman year.

"Mary is obviously a tremendous lacrosse player and a leader on the field. She has an amazing game sense that makes her a complete attacker," senior attacker Emma Wallace said. "You can see from her stats that she can score but she is unselfish as well, feeding the ball to other attackers."

As for the team as a whole, despite continued minor issues with stick-handling and shooting, they are going to stick to their game plan in matches to come.

"We just played one of the top teams in the nation to sudden-death overtime. We are not going to change what we are doing," Tucker said.

The girls will look to further clean up their act before Sunday, which begins a three-game road trip for the Jays where they face three tough programs: Ohio State, Georgetown and the University of Maryland-College Park.

"We will learn from our mistakes [Saturday], and I'm hoping that this tough loss will serve us well later in the season."

By EILEEN LILLY
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The winter track season ended this past weekend at the Eastern Athletic Centennial Conference (ECAC) Championships for all of the team's runners except one: Laura Paulsen. The phenomenal freshman managed to qualify to run at the upcoming NCAA Championships.

Those who had qualified for the ECACs during the regular season traveled to Wesleyan University in Middletown, Conn., and raced against over 55 Division III schools. The two-day event led to several personal records and the breaking of two school records.

The women's distance medley relay broke the school record by 11 seconds and finished in seventh place to begin the women's performance on Friday.

Sophomore Rachel Hogen and Paula Osborn and freshman Mary O'Grady each ran personal bests as they combined with Paulsen's strong run to finish with a time of 12:31.51. Although the team originally had two more relay teams qualified to run, injuries and sickness kept them from performing.

Sophomore Amarachi Onyima placed ninth in the shot put with her second best performance of the year at 38 feet 10.25 inches. At last week's Centennial Conference Championships, Onyima had broken the school record for distance in the shot put. Needless to say, Onyima has had a solid season thus far.

On the second day, Hogen shattered her previous record running the 3000-meter run in only 10:25.26. Her time earned her third place.

Not wanting to be excluded from all the record-breaking, the men's team also set their own personal records at the championship. In only his third week of competition, sophomore Adam Waddell surpassed his

own school record for the pole vault by 5 inches with a height of 14 feet 6.5 inches. Although the jump initially placed Waddell in the eighth position, he later finished in 11th place due to previous lower-height misses.

The men's distance medley relay did not perform as well as the women's team, but the combined efforts of junior James Bronson, freshman Christo Tait, freshman Nate Sotuyo, and freshman Noah Jampol did capture 12th place by running the relay in 10:37.40.

"As you can see our team is young and it will be exciting to see how we can perform in outdoor," junior Jeff Neal said. "Within the next few years, Hopkins will definitely be a frontrunner in the Centennial Conference."

Day two for the men's team was highlighted by freshman Graham Belton's performance in the 3000-meter run. Belton and freshman Dave Sigmon have clashed throughout the season over who would break the school freshman record. Belton battled past

Sigmon, and into 9th place with a time of 8:55.68. Sigmon placed 21st after crossing the finish line only 12 seconds after Belton with a time of 9:07.39.

Bronson, Jampol, Neal and Sotuyo ran together in the 4x800-meter relay for the best Hopkins time in 10 years, and only 4 seconds off the indoor record of 7:58.39. They finished 8th out of 18 teams with a time of 8:02.66, and were only 6 seconds behind first place. Junior James Bronson said, "Sotuyo and Neal really stepped it up this weekend in the 4x8, running the fastest time run in over five years for a Hopkins team," head coach Bobby Van Allen said. "Without them running the way they did we wouldn't have scored."

During the season, six indoor school records have been broken by the women's team, and another seven by the men's team.

Within the next few years, Hopkins will definitely be a frontrunner in the Centennial Conference.

— JUNIOR JEFF NEAL

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M. basketball finish with record 24 wins

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A12
down, they didn't let up and neither did we."

The tides began to turn again after some stellar defense and methodical offensive executions for the Jays. Junior guard Doug Polster hit two huge threes at the nine minute mark to transform a three-point Blue Jay deficit into a three-point cushion. The Blue Jays trailed only once more after Polster's trey as Hopkins outscored the Mustangs 14-2 over the last 3 minutes 48 seconds to finish the game.

Senior forward Matt Griffin paced the team with 24 points on a superb 10-13 shooting. He also added eight rebounds. Senior forward Dan Nawrocki contributed his customary double-double with 14 points and 13 rebounds, and Polster chipped in with 14.

While the Jays used their contributions from Nawrocki and Griffin to pound Villa Julie inside, it was the cold-blooded shooting of Polster that propelled the Blue Jays to victory. Without hesitation Polster pulled up and knocked down a three in a Mustang defenders face on four separate occasions.

The win over the Mustangs set up a second round match-up against No. 19 Guilford College and 6-foot 11-inch junior Ben Strong. Early on, the Blue Jays struggled to defend against the taller Strong. With a variety of post moves, the center ate up the Blue Jays interior presence. When Hopkins tried to double-team Strong, he found an open shooter who subsequently knocked down a three.

Hopkins fell behind early, trailing 23-13. Strong accounted for 8 of his team's first 10 points, and he also proved to be intimidating defensively, blocking and altering shots all game.

"We were trying to make him turn to the middle and [get him] doubled, but he was so quick that our double wasn't effective,"

Valerio said.

The Blue Jays were never able to put together a substantial run in the first half, but they came as close as four points with just a few minutes remaining. However, back-to-back threes before halftime bolstered Guilford's lead up to 13 points as intermission was reached.

As the second half began, the packed student section hoped for another comeback like the one they had seen the previous night. Unfortunately, Guilford quickly erased any memories of that miracle with a strong start to the second half.

The Blue Jays chipped the lead down to ten twice — once after a Nawrocki lay-up with 14 minutes left, and then after a three-point play by Valerio with 5 minutes 50 seconds left in the game. With less than three minutes left to play,

Hopkins was even able to close to within six points of the Guilford advantage, but it was too little too late.

All in all, it appears as though the Blue Jays ran into a better team in Guilford. They had an exceptionally athletic and physically gifted big man, lights-out perimeter shooters (7-13 from three-point range), and a sure-handed point guard.

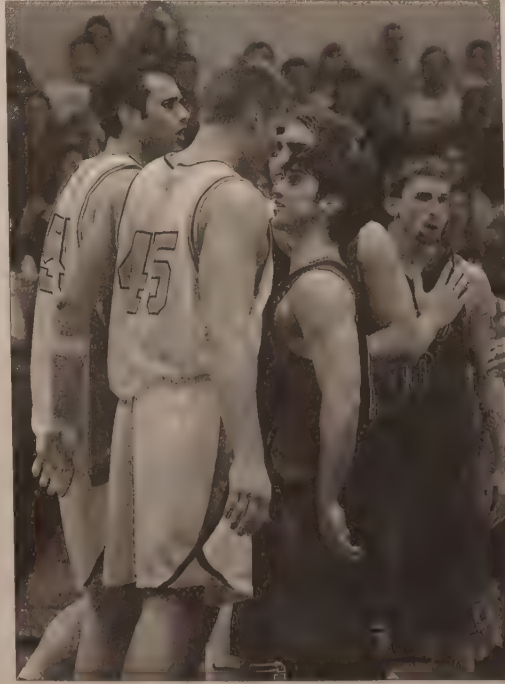
The Blue Jays left plenty

of points at the foul line as well, going just 18-32 from the charity stripe. Moreover, the team shot just 34 percent from the field.

A second-round exit is nothing to be disappointed about for this graduating senior class. After four years of learning to play together, feed off one another and win as a team, they were able to lead Hopkins to the NCAA Tournament for the first time in eight years. They finished the season with 24 wins — a school record — and a Centennial Conference title.

"I think all of us would say it's the best basketball season of our lives," Valerio said. "To win the conference and have as much fun as we did was just awesome."

"This senior class has taught all of us the value of hard work and how to stick together as a team," junior forward Kevin Roach said.



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER
Tensions ran high between Guilford and Hopkins on Saturday.

SPORTS

Did You Know?

Being on the same squad doesn't matter anymore in NASCAR. This certainly appeared to be the case after Scott Pruett's car was spun around by teammate Juan Pablo Montoya during last Sunday's Telcel Motorola Mexico 200. Montoya couldn't have been too sorry for "bumping" into his partner as he raked in \$2.5 million.

CALENDAR

SATURDAY

Men's Lacrosse vs. Hofstra 12 p.m.

No. 19 Guilford leads m. b'ball to their last dance

By JOHN MONAGAN
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

It has taken almost four years, but a Hopkins team that doesn't use netted sticks was finally able to draw Blue Jay fans to an event. And what all those in attendance witnessed last weekend was something truly special.

The men's basketball team hosted two NCAA tournament games, knocking off Villa Julie 84-72 on Friday night before dropping their second-round game to Guilford College, 80-73. Both contests were in front of a spirited, loud, energetic fan base — easily the biggest crowd

Goldfarb Gymnasium has seen in the past few years

"This team plays well when we have the crowd behind us," head coach Bill Nelson said. "In our season finale, we had a big crowd so to have it in the NCAA was huge."

The Blue Jays used the crowd to their advantage Friday night, coming back from an 18-point first-half deficit to defeat their Interstate-83 rivals. After Villa Julie sparked from the field in the first half while Hopkins struggled, the second half became a classic case of role reversal. The critical momentum swing for the Jays came with a 9-0 run over the final 2 minutes 30 seconds of the first half to bring a daunting 16-point lead down to just 7 points heading into the break.

Hopkins then scored the first five points of the second half to limit the game to a one-possession affair. Just as the Jays looked ready to surge into the lead, the Mustangs answered with a run of their own and extended their own lead back to double digits. However, the Blue Jay crowd wouldn't let their team give up.

"The crowd was like a sixth man," senior guard T.J. Valerio said. "When we were

CONTINUED ON
PAGE A11

Albany who? Jays beat Princeton

After suffering a shocking defeat in their season opener, m. lax recovers with huge wins over then-No. 1 Princeton and UMBC

By MICHAEL GLENWICK
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Just last week, the men's lacrosse team was at one of its lowest points in the past few years, after a crushing season-opening loss to then-unranked Albany. In the span of just four days, however, Hopkins erased most doubts created by the upset loss, defeating Princeton on Saturday afternoon and the University of Maryland Baltimore County (UMBC) on Tuesday night.

The victory over the UMBC Retrievers by a score of 15-6 was the Blue Jays' first game of the season in which the end result was not in doubt, as Hopkins was able to control the pace of the game throughout.

Jumping out to a 5-0 lead in the first quarter, Hopkins' attackers took control of the game from the onset — something that they had not done so well in the team's first two games — and established the team's dominance early. With four more goals in the second quarter, the team continued to apply the right mix of offense with stability on the defensive half of the field in order to keep the Retrievers no closer than barking distance of the lead.

Freshman midfielder Michael Kimmel was perfect, scoring three times on only three shots. Senior co-captain attacker Jake Byrne and junior midfielder Stephen Peyser also chipped in with two goals each.

Senior goalie Jesse Schwartz-



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER
Junior midfielder Paul Rabil bulldozes a Princeton defender during the team's thrilling 7-6 win. Rabil scored the game-winner.

man led the team on the defensive side of things, making 13 saves. Facing the same number of shots (37) as his UMBC counterpart, he let in only about one-third as many goals in a game that was, for all intents and purposes, decided at the end of the first half, with the Blue Jays leading 9-2.

Still, Hopkins' game of the week was, without a doubt, its match-up with lacrosse superpower Princeton on Saturday afternoon in a Final Four-like doubleheader at the Ravens' M&T Bank Stadium. Much

more than was the case with the UMBC win, the Blue Jays' thrilling 7-6 double overtime victory over the then-top-ranked Tigers put Hopkins back into the conversation as potential national champions.

Given the team's sluggish start the previous week against Albany, a top priority for the Jays was to start strong and get on the scoreboard early. Nonetheless, those goals were not realized. The team failed to get any shots past the Tigers' goalkeeper Alex Hewitt, described by many as

one of the top net-minders in college lacrosse. Along with a solid defensive core, Hewitt proved to be tough to get past, particularly early on in the game.

"[Early in] the game, you could tell that it wasn't going to be a high-scoring game," Byrne said. "Hewitt is one of the best goalies I have played against, and their defense has always been one of the best in the country."

The second and third quarters were a different story, however, as Hopkins outscored Princeton

CONTINUED ON PAGE A10



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER
Senior guard T.J. Valerio turns the corner against a late defender from Villa Julie in the middle of a 84-72 victory.

Thank You Hopkins Students For Your Support at the 2007 NCAA Division III Men's Basketball Tournament!!

THE 2006-07 JOHNS HOPKINS BLUE JAYS

#2 Collin Kamm, #4 Phil Roggens, #5 T.J. Valerio, #22 Patrick O'Connell, #24 Scott Weisenfeld, #31 Andrew Farber-Miller, #32 Zack Armon, #33 Chris Morley, #35 Kevin Roach, #42 Adam Baumgartner, #43 Doug Polster, #45 Danny Nawrocki, #55 Matt Griffin

Head Coach: Bill Nelson

Assistant Coaches: Bob McCone, Ed Richardson, G.C. Smith, Danny Burruss

THE B SECTION

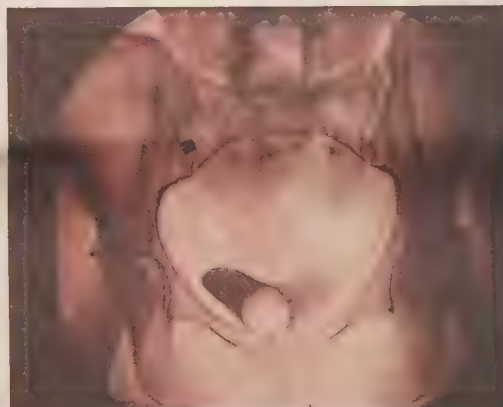
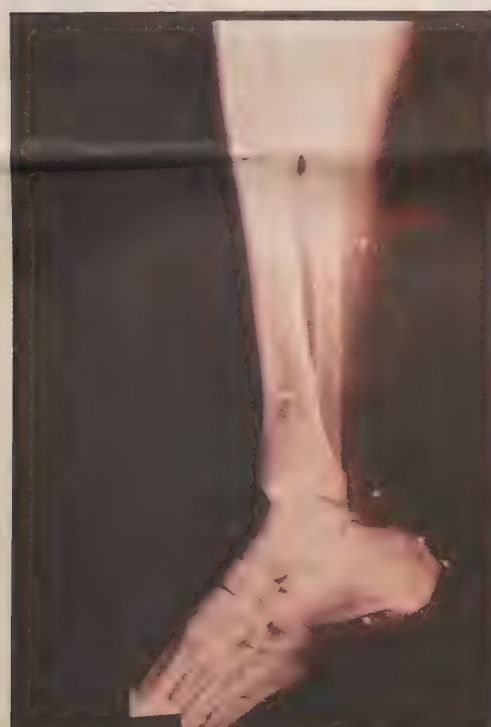
Focus • Features • Arts & Entertainment • Calendar • Cartoons

MARCH 8, 2007

The war in Iraq



and its victims



from the inside



PHOTOS BY LAURA BITNER/NEWS-LETTER

ARTS B6

*Here
it comes:
glorious
spring
break*



FOCUS B2

INSIDE
B SECTION



FEATURES

• If you're worrying about what to wear over spring break, don't worry — Carter Cramer's got you covered, **B3**.

ARTS

• Comedian **Steven Lynch** tore up the Shriver Hall stage this past Friday. Check out our review, **B6**.

CARTOONS

• Explore the deepest bowels of space this week with "In Search of the Sand Planet," **B9**.

SPRING BREAK FOCUS



MATT HANSEN/NEWS-LETTER

Go swimming with the whales of New Zealand

By **ETHAN OGILBY**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The kind of spring break that I endorse is the kind filled with adventure.

Not the getting-a-great-tan kind of adventure, or the capri-pants-on-sale kind; that's not the direction to go in.

But spring break in August? Now we're getting there.

I studied abroad in Christchurch, New Zealand, and took a spring break trip to the Pacific island of Tonga, where my little adventure took place.

The journey began when we had to fly from the main Tongan island to a smaller one, 'Eau. The flight lasted all of six minutes.

The airport at 'Eau was literally a dirt road and a shack that only had two walls.

The whale watch was a part of a package deal with this lodge called The Hideaway. The owner of the business picked us up at the airport and told us that to swim with whales there have to be three things: good weather, no sharks and calm whales. He told us it was "up to the whales" whether or not we got to go in. He said it was very rare that people actually got to swim with the whales and that we shouldn't get our hopes up.

The whale-watching boat was very small. In addition to my four friends, there was a tour guide and the boat captain. They were both Tongan and the tour guide was only a few years older than us.

When we finally set out it

took about five minutes for the tour guide to spot some whales in the distance. The rest of us just saw water, but we were getting our bearings nonetheless.

August in Tonga is the peak of the humpback whales' breeding season, and the area we were in was their prime breeding zone. We soon found ourselves more or less surrounded by whales.

Then I began to get seasick. The ocean was as calm as it gets, but there were still big swells that tossed our tiny boat around.

Then the boat slowed down. The tour guide handed us a box of snorkels and masks and told us we could get in.

As I plunged into the surprisingly warm water the effects of motion sickness temporarily subsided. They were replaced by feelings of awe as I found myself sharing water with some of Earth's largest creatures.

The first time in the water was brief as the whales dove and swam away. At the calls of the captain we hurried back to the boat to follow them. I was the last one in



ETHAN OGILBY/NEWS-LETTER

Swimming with some of the largest creatures on Earth can be awe-inspiring and scary at the same time.

because my refreshed feeling was short lived and I once again had to do my best impression of a mama bird feeding her babies.

It was at about this time I realized just exactly how this experience wouldn't be legal in the United States. There were no life preservers, no swimming test, and sharks a-plenty. At times, the boat was at most 100 feet away from the whales.

The next time we went out, as we swam awkwardly towards the colossal mammals, one of them seemed to become aware of my presence. Whales are, after all, very smart and curious and, if in a good mood, often will become playful or show off for the boats.

The great beast methodically turned to face me, probably a

100 feet away and then swam towards me. Gripped with an intense combination of fear and exhilaration, I was paralyzed in the water, not knowing what to do.

He continued towards me and I looked around frantically for some kind of cue from my swimming partners.

Luckily for me, he dove before he reached me, and my heart was left beating wildly from the rush that our brief encounter had produced.

So I lay down in the front of the boat for until the trip was over. I was still able to overhear everyone having a great time, and since they were all my friends, I was still in a good mood because I could have some fun though osmosis.

It was, believe it or not, the first time our tour guide had even swam with the whales, so he was really excited too. He was so afraid of sharks that he wouldn't go more than a few meters away from the boat.

It was an amazing experience even though I threw up at least 40 times. Everyone was so wiped that we napped for the rest of the day. One of my peers, who didn't experience any sickness, said he would have paid \$500 to do what we did.

My estimate would be lower (mostly because of the motion sickness) but I still had a great time and it was better than anything I could ever do in the States.

Adventures like that one don't come along everyday, or every spring break, so if anyone is ever in Tonga I recommend it.

Six tips to make the most out of your spring break

By **JEREMY ESPERON**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The weeks preceding spring break are particularly gruesome.

It's very likely, for example, that you have two exams tomorrow and a paper due at midnight tonight. You've probably been in the library for six hours now, and you're only reading this article because you're waiting in line at Café Q. You're tired, pissed off, and all you really want to do is go home and sleep.

The problem is that after spring break, there's another month and a half remaining of the same thing. This means that you have one week to cool down and get yourself together.

Here are a few things you can do over break to make sure that you come back refreshed and ready to tackle the rest of the semester. You may very well have intended to do some of these things during the past month, but, well, got busy.

Read a newspaper.

Did you know that U.S. troops in Afghanistan killed at least eight civilians this week? Or that the world financial markets haven't been doing too well lately? Or that David Beckham is moving to California? There's more to this world than Hopkins, and lots of things have been happening in it while you were studying for your Cell Bio midterm. Here's your chance to catch up.

Get a new look.

A new hairstyle can do wonders for your mental health. And don't even get me started on the benefits of a new wardrobe.

End your long-distance relationship.

I'm serious. When you're in one, you end up spending so much time talking to, thinking

about, and arguing with your significant other who is hundreds of miles away that you forget about the people right around you. Then you wonder why you feel so lonely and why you hate being here. The truth is, during my time here, I've seen only one long-distance relationship last ... and it probably isn't yours.

Read a book.

You're probably going to bring a few textbooks in your suitcase in an effort to be productive over break. Then on March 17, you'll realize that you haven't opened any of your textbooks at all. Stop lying to yourself and just admit from the start that you won't get any studying done over break. It's okay, everyone's entitled to a little rest here and there. Instead, head over to Barnes & Noble and pick up a novel you've been meaning to read but never got the chance to. Bonus points if the book has nothing to do with anything you're studying at the moment.

Don't talk about med school.

Does anyone on vacation really want to hear about the pros and cons of being an engineering student who wants to apply to medical school? Does anyone on vacation really need to know who got a 42 on the MCATs? Does anyone on vacation really care about which of your pre-med requirements you've fulfilled so far? Uh ... no.

Finally, get some sleep.

I don't even have to explain this one.



COURTESY OF SAMMY ROSE SALTZMAN

Hide those text books. Spring break is the time to let loose.

Hopkins gone wild: three girls tell all

By **AUDREY MURRAY**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

We all know the typical Hopkins student. He sits at a desk on D-level on a Friday night studying for an organic chemistry exam that's two weeks away, determined to set the curve. He never ventures far from the safe haven at 3400 N. Charles St., and his idea of fun is a biology lab.

But we also know that stereotype doesn't hold true for everyone, and it doesn't take a week of boozing on a Caribbean island to get some pre-meds, engineers and humanities students to go wild.

Here are a collection of stories straight from the Homewood campus, with names changed to protect the not-so-innocent:

Kristen was at a fraternity date party at a bar downtown. The open bar had lowered everyone's inhibitions, and sloppy couples were making out in every corner.

"I started pounding on the bar and screaming, 'Someone buy me a drink!'" Kristen remembers. It didn't take long for someone to come to her rescue.

Drink in hand, Kristen made her way over to the DJ booth. "I asked him to play my favorite song, and he did."

Kristen was so excited that she grabbed her friend and decided to dance on top of some speakers.

Five security guards rushed over to the two girls and ordered them to get down immediately. "We did, and then I was like, 'Well, if I can't dance with her, you dance with me.'"

One security guard grabbed her hand and led her to the dance floor, where the two got cozy for a few songs.

"He wasn't my date," Kristen recalls, "but he was a really good

dancer."

Angela was attending a party thrown by some of her friends. They had music, a keg, and all the staples of a good party, but they were running a little low on cups. No cups meant no beer for partygoers.

Angela offered to go buy more cups. Figuring she would run somewhere nearby, her friends let her leave.

As soon as she stepped out of the house, Angela ran into some friends on the street. Completely forgetting about her quest for cups, she agreed to follow them to a fraternity.

At the frat, Angela was the only girl in a room full of guys drinking beer and making plans to go pick up some "to-hoes" (girls from Towson University). Angela had no interest in leaving Hopkins to find girls, but she somehow found herself in a cab with beefy frat boys speeding up N. Charles St. looking for some action.

The girls at Towson were just as expected, and Angela was bored. She left the party and hailed a cab back to campus.

When she was halfway there, she realized she had forgotten her wallet, and didn't have any money. Knowing her friends from the cup-less party would be worried about her (and probably wondering where the cups were), she told the cab driver to drop her off at Wolman Hall so she could quickly get cash and run back to the first party, cups in hand.

Angela made her way to the Wolman lobby's ATM while the cab driver sat idling outside waiting for his fare. Angela put her card in and tried to enter her pin number. But she couldn't remember it.

For a few minutes, she tried entering random numbers, but she wasn't getting it right. She

started to panic; she had no way to pay the cab driver.

Not knowing what else to do, Angela ran into the lounge adjacent to the Wolman lobby. She hid under some couches until the cab driver eventually drove away. Then she made her way back to the party.

She never got the cups, but she did end up with a really good story.

Emily's friend invited her out to a lesbian bar one Saturday night. "As open-minded as I am, I didn't want to go," Emily explains. "I said no over and over and over again."

As the night wore on, Emily and another friend became more enthusiastic about the idea of going out. They were going to go to the Charles Village Pub, but when they got back to Emily's suite, her suitmates invited her to go to a different club. "I invited a few more friends, so there were six of us total," she says.

The first half of the group caught a cab downtown, but Emily and the others had trouble hailing one.

"Then a car of young guys drove by. I yelled out, 'Pick us up!' and they stopped and reversed in the middle of the street."

The boys drove Emily and her friends to the club, and even stayed to party with the group. "It turned out nice because they were not sketchy at all, and didn't kidnap us," Emily adds.

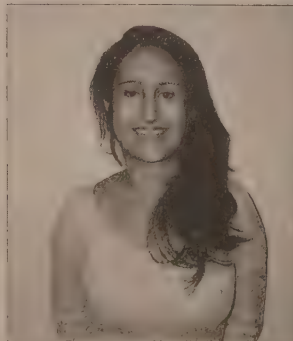
When they got to the club, Emily headed into the bathroom, where she noticed that there were a lot of lesbian couples. She didn't think anything of it, but when she got back to the dance floor, she realized it was gay night at the club.

"I love the irony. I refused to go to a lesbian bar, but ended up going to one anyway."

SPRING BREAK PLANS

It's spring break 2007, time to let loose and forget about all that schoolwork you should be catching up on. We asked three Hopkins students what they had in store.

ANGIE ALDAYUZ



STEPHANIE YU/NEWS-LETTER

"My boyfriend and I are going to Miami Beach. We're staying at a place with a waterfall and a lagoon pool. The beach comes right off the hotel, so I'm planning on getting a tan and shopping the whole break!"

KATIE VILLA



STEPHANIE YU/NEWS-LETTER

"I'm going to Miami to help build houses with Habitat for Humanity. We're stopping over in Savannah, Ga., too. I'm psyched to go to the beach to get a tan! And I can finally relax and not worry about school."

JAKE KOENIG



STEPHANIE YU/NEWS-LETTER

"I'm going on spring break with the cycling team to a log cabin with a jacuzzi in the mountains of West Virginia. It's preparation for the JHU Hostetter-Hampstead Road Race at the end of spring break."

FEATURES

Hopkins is a YouTuber's "paradise"

By SHANNON JACKSON
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

If you have not gotten into the *YouTube* hype, chances are you will. *YouTube* (<http://www.youtube.com>) has become the leading Web site for sharing videos. The news service Reuters reports that 60 percent of videos watched online today are on *YouTube*.

YouTube says they are "a consumer media company for people to watch and share original videos worldwide through a Web experience." People can post their personal, special or contrived moments for people across the world to see, and also view "first-hand accounts of current events, find videos about their hobbies and interests, and discover the quirky and unusual."

The site is not merely for storing videos. Members enjoy a number of services such as uploading, tagging and sharing videos worldwide; finding, joining and creating video groups to connect with people who have similar interests; and subscribing to member videos, saving favorites and creating playlists — all for free. Members also have the option to broadcast their videos publicly or share them privately with friends and family once uploaded.

Missed the Grammy Awards? Need to know about a current event for class? Want to see that classic commercial you used to



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM](http://www.youtube.com)

Now playing on *YouTube*: "Hopkins Paradise", a spoof directed by Michael Brooks '10, depicts the hardships of vector calculus.

watch as a kid? Want to show your friends a clip from your favorite sitcom? Chances are you can search *YouTube* and find video clips for just about anything. No wonder visitors to the site watch more than 70 million videos daily.

Not only can you find videos about what is going on around the world, but students at Johns Hopkins can search the site to see what is going on right here

on our Homewood campus. The site hosts several videos that were either filmed by Hopkins students, are about Hopkins students, or feature the campus in some way.

Several *YouTube* videos featuring Hopkins share moments from some of the University's most memorable events including lacrosse games, public speakers and cultural entertainment shows.

For example, highlights of Hopkins winning the 2004 game against the Navy, in what the CBS clip poster describes as "arguably the most thrilling game of the season for Johns Hopkins lacrosse," and the 2004 game against the then-No. 1-ranked Princeton are stored for fans to view. There are also recent clips of fencing and martial arts events featuring students on campus.

In addition to using *YouTube* to catch up on sporting events around campus, students can search the site to find out about what is going on politically and academically around us. For example, *YouTube* can be a reference for learning about the recent "Securing the Future" conference that took place on our campus in an effort to educate high school

students in Baltimore about the issues of homeland security. You can hear from the founder of the conference, view Hopkins' political science professor Steven David's introductory speech on the basics of terrorism, hear from high school participants about the effect of the program, and see the many engaging events of the conference. This series of *YouTube* videos serve as tools to educate the community about both the "Securing the Future" project and the issues of homeland security.

Furthermore, the site hosts clips showcasing a variety of the campus' most talented from several entertainment venues. If you missed JHU Lion Dance Troupe's performance during the 2006 Culture Show you need to find the seven-minute clip on *YouTube* and check it out.

While you are at it, you should click on links to see clips of last year's JHU Spring Gospel Choir concert, Filipino Cultural Night, and Latino Fest, and Oleg Shik's standup comedy act from the this year's Intersession comedy show.

YouTube also features a campus tour created by a current Hopkins student "for

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A day in the life

Driving an escort van

By DREW LEFKOF
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

For most people within the 18-21 age demographic, Saturday night is a time to unwind with friends and sip a few brews. Not so for senior Qing Ma, who spends those hours driving the ever relied-on escort shuttle.

Ma, a biomedical engineering major, used to frequent fraternity and house parties with her friends. However, that all changed last semester when she earned her shuttle certification.

"I didn't want to go to parties anymore," Ma explains. "That's actually why I chose to work the Saturday night shift. Now, I don't have to reject my friends' invitations to go out with them."

Allowing me to join her this past Saturday, Ma and I set out from the Shriver basement in van number eight, as she clutched her walkie-talkie, cell phone and 7-11 coffee.

"Apparently, there's a Phi-Mu formal tonight," Ma said, looking toward me with a smile. "Should be an exciting night, huh?"

"10-9, van eight pick-up at Charles Commons" (10:30 p.m.)

I scan the radio dial to 97.9 FM, sending vibrant alternative rock beats through the van's speakers, as Ma nods accordingly.

"That's usually the station I like to listen to," she said. "I get pretty bored if the music isn't up-

beat enough. It keeps me awake too, which is definitely a good thing."

Within a few minutes, the Charles Commons residents climb into the back seat. The two costumed passengers talk aimlessly amongst one another as Ma obliviously drives toward the Cresmont Lofts.

"Hey, maybe there's something going over there tonight," I asked, as we headed back toward North Charles Street.

"Oh, maybe," Ma said, inattentively. "When I first started working this shift, I used to be interested in where all the parties were taking place. After a while, the excitement faded, and now it's just a job."

"10-9, 7-11 pick up by Sig Ep" (11 p.m.)

As the van pulls into an angled parking spot in front of 7-11, it narrowly misses colliding with the adjacent Dodge Neon.

"John Hopkins, what the f-k," mouthed the dreadlocked Dodge owner, as he glanced at the van's side insignia.

Quickly, Ma engaged the van's automatic locking system, before sighing as the Neon zoomed onto West 29th Street.

"I always stop here for coffee, in the middle of my shift," Ma explained. "Every time, I come here or go over to the 7-11 on Greenmount, I get kind of scared."

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SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

Qing Ma, Saturday night shuttle driver, gets an unusual view of the party scene.

Stars air out their dirty laundry ... and we watch

There's nothing more despicable than professional celebrity. Come on! These people sit in their massive Beverly Hills mansions, which take up acres and acres of land that would be better suited for growing crops or housing medical research facilities, sip champagne from diamond-encrusted goblets that could have come from a parlor in Versailles, and drive different SUVs for each day of the week, polluting our planet beyond recognition, and yet we inexplicably worship their every move. Two hundred years ago, people living in such luxury were guillotined.

Worst of all, this luxury isn't even earned.

There's two kinds of professional celebrities: there's the Paris Hilton type who starts by inheriting millions of dollars from a far more economic relative, makes a sex-tape or two, then gets paid thousands of dollars to show up at parties and draw attention like a vodka pouring cupid sculpted from ice. Then there's the Britney Spears type who rises from a more humble background, does something of (relative) importance or significance in the world of pop culture (like writhe around on stage with a boa constrictor), then recedes after his or her prime only to reemerge on occasion and get paid thousands of dollars to attend parties or botch up different projects related to his or her media, like record producer Phil Spector did in the 1960s.

These folks are publicity pros-

titutes; with each dirty gaffe they commit, they make more money and get more attention.

So, as you can imagine, it's satisfying to see professionally celebrities have humiliating public meltdowns.

Consider the recent events surrounding aforementioned Britney Spears. Spears started as a good-old country girl with a solid set of pipes, became a Mouseketeer

and then a tweenage-friendly pop sensation, did some risqué things, released

"Toxic", then pretty much disappeared from the spotlight. She became a big thing again last year when she decided to marry her drunk friend in Vegas, only to annul the marriage and make babies with a drunk colleague. When that fell apart, she did what any sensible person would do: she went to a hair salon, shaved her own head, got some tattoos, went out clubbing, and checked herself into Promises Malibu rehabilitation center, all in the span of one day.

Now former hubby Kevin Federline has been granted custody of their two kids until Spears completes the 45 day program and makes a ton of money off of her depressing situation. Vibe Magazine music editor, Jon Caramanica told CNN.com that the best thing Spears could do is "make an album that engages with this subject matter in some way. Not only to have a good album but to have an album that's a declaration of emotional health." Sounds like cashing in, only a temporary

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Max McKenna
Guest Column



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.STUFF.CO.NZ](http://www.stuff.co.nz) AND [HTTP://WWW.PEOPLE.COM](http://www.people.com)
Britney Spears and Lindsay Lohan dominate headlines with their trainwreck antics.

The Den brings fresh ambiance to grad readings

By CARA SELICK
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The lights are low. Smoke encircles heads as fingers reach for hors d'oeuvres. Hands wrap around glasses and wrists tap ash into trays. A murmuring buzz fills the air, punctuated by bursts of laughter.

It's 7 p.m. on a Monday night, and The Den, a local lounge bar, is host to a small crowd of Hopkins students and locals who have gathered to hear to this week's graduate student readings.

The program includes a poet, a fiction writer, and — an anomaly — a science writer on the menu.

The Den, located above Tamber's Restaurant on the corner of 34th St. and Saint Paul, has a distinctive funky, mod atmosphere. Low beds, vacant on a Monday night, line the back wall, couches and chairs surrounding the remainder of the fairly small room, all square, clean, black, red and white.

However, every Monday night, The Den transforms into a makeshift poetry café, where the sharp corners of the décor meet the soft words of thesis candidates in the Writing Seminars. A small silver table stands center stage, cluttered with votive candles and a glass, in which a microphone is placed. With a tap of the mic and a clearing of his throat, the presenter begins to introduce the first reader with grandiose hand motions, brazenly waving his cigarette in circles as he speaks.

The first reader this week was Chelsea Woodard, a poet from New England. Her poetry reflected her roots without being overbearingly personalized or lo-

cation-centered. Her set featured ten poems, including "Thanks Mom," a poem collaborated from random fragments of her mother's emails; "Things We Inherit," a sestina for her father; and "A Miner's Daughter," a character poem developed in her graduate course.

The second reader of the night was Shashi Bhat, a fiction writer, who read a hilarious story written the previous day called "Hating Eileen" which bordered somewhere between hilarious, malicious and ashamedly realistic (although she pointed out that the piece was not autobiographical).

The story was about three friends working in an amusement park who, essentially, all hated Eileen, and loved nothing more than to talk about their hatred

and resolving the pressing issue of how to expel her from their lives. Bhat's writing set vivid scenes all tinted with a hint of almost real fantasy and underlying humor.

The final writer, Mike Price, was a treat, the rare instance of a science writer amongst the readings. He described his first story as a "travel science story", surprisingly depicting a mining town with extreme eloquence and style, while inserting some of that science jargon that some members of the Writing Seminars department might zone out on. Yet Price managed to present both of his stories in an entertaining and highly well written manner, keeping captive those

brave enough to have stayed for his reading.

The dim, smoky setting of The Den added to the allure of the readings, a definite step up from the graduate readings' previous locales. The readings were formerly held at the Hopkins Deli (where you can now find the Undergraduate readings), and were relocated last semester to a classroom in Gilman.

However, despite the successful readings there, Matthew Smith (poet) and Brian Platzer (fiction writer), currently running the weekly event, wanted a more fun and interesting setting for the writers to showcase their work.

Smith describes the current experience offered as "half social and half artistic," certainly an improvement from the monotony of Gilman Hall.

Platzer asserted the need for these readings in the community. "The scope of what most college kids know is limited to what they've read in their high school or Intro to Fiction and Poetry syllabi," he said. "This gives them the opportunity to interact with other Hopkins young writers ... it shows them what's really out there in terms of writing nowadays and gives them an idea of what they can aspire to and expect out of their own writing."

Smith agreed, adding on that not only is it an artistic and intellectual environment, but a fun and laid back one as well.

"We want to make literature more engaging," he said, gazing around at the people still lingering. "And social interaction more existent."

This quest for a social environment beyond the hedonistic basements of undergraduate frat houses doesn't seem an unreasonable one, and everyone present at the readings seemed to indulge in the more sophisticated environment, the free food and, for those of legal age, the cheap alcohol at the bar.

The graduate students appeared to be especially entertained as they cheered on their friends and classmates and sipped on their cocktails, as the undergraduates guzzled up mozzarella sticks and hummus, indulging in a free snack outside the dominion of the meal plans.

Platzer and Smith said they were happy to see so many different people showing up at the event. They expressed their hope to spread the word even further and expand the events, allowing the writers to reach more people and the atmosphere to be even more social. "Our fantasy is that in a community lacking in an abundance of social options, we can provide Hopkins with an opportunity to socialize and listen to good stories and poems," Platzer said, quickly noting the important fact that in addition "sometimes there are chicken quesadillas and cocktail waiters." This is certainly the type of environment they have provided.

Nevertheless, a word of advice from this writer: sit on the front row of chairs rather than the couches in back so you don't end up staring at the thong on the girl in front of you instead of the reader.

... we can provide Hopkins with an opportunity to socialize and listen to good stories and poems.

— BRIAN PLATZER

FEATURES

To spit or to swallow: that is the question

She says the only solution is to live and let spit ...

... But he says the answer shouldn't be hard to swallow

While every girl enjoys pleasing her guy, there's always that moment of dread when the end is near. The penis is like a ticking time bomb just waiting to explode in her mouth, coating the oral cavity with biochemical shrapnel. Guys who are lucky enough to be with a girl who accepts the 200-500 million squirming sperm cells in her mouth should be very grateful. Girls who swallow do it solely out of the kindness of their beautifully beating hearts. They gain no personal satisfaction from downing in your load.

Why should girls be expected to swallow every time, especially when guys know how disgusting it can truly be? One of the lowest, most disrespectful things a guy can do is to reject their partner's kiss after she has serviced him. Excuse me, but how dare you refuse to get a hint of your own self-produced salty flavor when I just had to fight my natural gag reflex to please you.

In a perfect world, every guy would experience a snowball (the act of the girl passing the ejaculate into the guy's mouth).

I never truly appreciated my high school boyfriend who refused to force this nasty experience on me and allowed me to back off every time and soil his sock instead. That is 21st-century chivalry!

Ladies, did you know that semen actually has caloric value? Though it's only 5-7 calories per teaspoon, that's still extra calories added to your daily intake. Besides sperm, semen contains protein, zinc, base buffers,

enzymes, citric acid, fructose sugar, vitamin C, and water. Guys, don't be so fast to claim that your juice is healthy just because it contains vitamins and minerals! For its health value to actually count, large amounts would have to be consumed on a daily basis—something I'm sure most of you don't have the ability to handle.

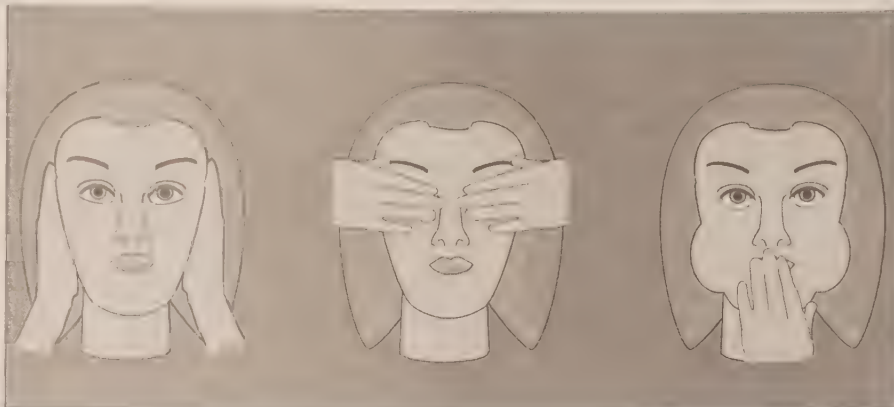
Every guy has his own unique flavor. Some are tolerable while others taste like spoiled milk injected with rat poison. In general, semen has a warm, unappetizing, acidic salty taste that adheres tightly to every taste bud on your tongue. Diet has a profound effect on the taste. When considering the factors that curdle semen, it seems impossible that any college guy would go down smoothly.

Everything from alcohol, caffeine, recreational drugs, nicotine, red meat, junk food and garlic will negatively affect your flavor.

Fruits (especially pineapple, papaya, and mangos), vegetables, cinnamon, and lots of water are recommended to give your semen a sweeter taste. Only a gentleman who remains sober and organic is worthy of a few swallows. If the girl is making a sacrifice, why shouldn't he control his smoking habits and Keystone consumption? This concept certainly puts a damper on

Steak & BI Day

My male counterpart believes deep throating will magically solve this distasteful problem! He is correct in stating this, since deep throating bypasses the bulk of the tongue through the depth of the esophagus. What he fails to recognize is the tiniest, insignificant detail—the risk of choking.



MATT HANSEN/NEWS-LETTER

Of course this isn't a big deal if the guy enjoys banging the rigid, cold cavities of their partner's dead body.

Personally, I think guys and girls can comprise on this issue of spitting. You won't suffer from blue balls and she won't move from the assumed position until you're finished ejaculating.

After the job is completed, the girl should be allowed to simply deposit the contents in her mouth into a tissue or trashcan. What should it matter if she swallows or spits? At least she's allowing you to finish in her mouth. Swallowing is an uncomfortable and unpleasant event for anyone.

Doesn't it seem disrespectful to force someone into an unwanted sexual circumstance? If the guy is willing to share in this repulsive experience (just once!) he will officially earn the right to ask for swallowing.

When your grandmother bakes you an unbearable pineapple pie, you eat it. You do this as a sacrifice, performed out of generosity and loyalty. It may not be the greatest of fine dining, but you do it because you love her. Swallowing cum is

insemination superhighway; instead, the seminal vesicle charges the plasma with fructose, which nourishes the sperm as they travel. It's like this dream I had once where I was swimming in a lake of Jell-O.

As my fellow columnista points out, semen often isn't that tasty. This is because the seminal plasma contains small amounts of some absolutely horrid-sounding amino acids, including "putrescine" and "cadaverine," which give semen make semen slightly bitter. Small amounts, mind you.

It's a two-way street. Which means three things: 1. The deeper you (the giver) go, the less you taste these acids. 2. If you (the receiver) want it so much, why not try it yourself? 3. If you (the receiver) want to be swallowed, your lover has the right to ask the same of you when you go down on them.

As Ashley also points out, the right eating habits can make semen taste a whole lot better. So get a load of this: swallowing can be used as an incentive for your boyfriend to eat healthily. Tell your lad that if he would just cut back on the cigarettes, drugs, junk food and beer, his semen would taste better. Red meat, fish and dairy also make semen less palatable—another reason why vegetarian men get all the honeys. So, the next time you give head, threaten to spit unless he gets his daily three to five servings of veggies.

In a relationship, swallowing can be used as a bargaining chip for all occasions. The way I see it, you can play the "I Swallowed"

card for up to 24 hours post gulp. Valid uses include, "I swallowed, so you have to do the dishes," "I swallowed, so you get to take out the garbage," and "I swallowed, so you can pop down to Charles Street Market and buy another bottle of K-Y lube. They keep it next to the frappuccinos."

There is a further reason to start a tab with Willie the Bartender: it's much cleaner. Semen leaves a temporary blemish on fabrics, meaning you have to get out the soap and water, or find an alternative place for your dorm room visitors to sit. Swallow in the name of tidiness! Even Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle would approve.

Finally, don't underestimate the spiritual potency of swallowing semen. Semen features prominently in initiation rituals among men in the Sambia and Etoro people of Papua New Guinea. In both groups, semen is linked with masculinity, strength and maturity.

In the Abrahamic religions, things are a little different, but still, as my favorite Biblical scholars say, "Every sperm is sacred." The book of Genesis' 38th chapter tells a story—one your Sunday school teacher probably omitted—in which God kills Onan, a son of Judah, for "spilling his seed."

You may adopt your own Biblical interpretation. Mine says: swallow, and God will love you.

These arguments are oh-so-undeniably compelling, and you're probably already looking forward to swallowing, or being swallowed, as the case may be. But if you are among the latter, don't automatically expect your loved one to be completely

gung-ho for your cum. Consider a bit of salesmanship. Effective branding is key. Two things to keep in mind: First, soft-pedal the putrescine. Second, avoid referring to your semen as "cock snot." Try "albino love chutney."



Ashley Wietsma



Raphael Krut-Landau



Congratulations to the
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HOT AT HOPKINS



LAURA BITNER/NEWS-LETTER

STEVEN KORNWEISS

Hometown: Hershey, Pa.
Major: Neuroscience
Year: Junior

Steven knows how to treat the girl of his dreams, an Amazon of 5 ft. 7 in. and long blonde hair—right. His plan to woo her is quite elaborate: he has been known to secretly purchase her flowers—a solitary red rose to be exact—and make

dinner reservations at Gertrude's Restaurant in the BMA. The romantic chap will fill his Bradford room up with the sultry sounds of Barry White, light some scented candles, and open a bottle of wine. It all promises the lucky gal a night of romantic bliss, that is, unless she ditches him for intramural basketball. Don't laugh, it's been known to happen.

To make it to Barry White, the girl has to possess a hearty laugh and a good sense of humor. These two qualifications can easily be satisfied if she thinks that this hottie is funny, which, according to this neuroscience major is a no-brainer. Such a claim might make him seem conceited, a vice that he acknowledges that his friends frequently pin to him, but it doesn't matter. "I saw that's impossible, because I'm perfect," states this cocky one, in response to this accusation.

Armed with confidence, this member of the Hopkins cycling

team isn't afraid to mention his occasional penchant for shaving his legs and wearing spandex around his apartment. Perhaps the last confession is rooted in his need for speed, which doesn't always need to translate to the bedroom. He's willing to wait for her to make the first move, and if that doesn't happen for a bit, his attitude is "So what?" But then again, this is coming from the man who uses "Do you want to make out?" as his favorite pick-up line. Apparently, it works.

He claims that what turns him on is watching girls twirl their hair... through his telephoto lens. Um, excuse me? "Just kidding," he's quick to add. There's that sense of humor rearing its ugly head again. If you laughed, here's something to consider: this joker is single.

See someone who gets those hibernating hormones a-buzzing? Then nominate them for Hot at Hopkins! Send an e-mail to jhufeatures@gmail.com

Kathy Lehmann is a girl who won't give it to you straight. Every aspect of her character has to be deduced through a sort of process of elimination.

For example: when asked about her best quality, Kathy says it's her ability to laugh at everything. She quickly adds, "No, I'm not on drugs." Hmm, that's a bit of a puzzler. When she says "everything" does she mean everything that is meant to be funny (because that is a valid, admirable quality), or everything in the entire world, the good, the bad, and the ugly (because that would require some narcotics). Which one is it, Kathy?

She doesn't say, and although she plans on handling chemicals for a living, most likely it's the former. Kathy's certainly not on drugs, and if you look at the rest of her character, it sort of makes you wonder.

This 5 ft. 10 in. babe has an affinity for Colombian men. She wouldn't mind spending a date in FFC eating ice cream all night (you'd have to have some serious munchies to pull that off). Her favorite romantic moment? That time a classmate of hers, after months of secretly observing her on a daily basis, calculated her locker combination so he could hide some roses in it.

But the linchpin here is that Kathy is a neat freak. She cleans "obsessively," and despises "people who perspire" (although that seems to be most of us). Have you ever met a tidy junkie who didn't sweat? Oh yeah, and once she sent a guy to rehab.

So, logical deductions aside, is Kathy right for you? Or are you right for Kathy? Her biggest turn on is men named Luigi, but she's willing to settle for other guys with video-game character name-



SHIV GANDHI/NEWS-LETTER

KATHY LEHMANN

Hometown: Fairfield, Conn.
Major: ChemBE
Year: Freshman

sakes. Mr. Pikachu, we finally found a girlfriend for you! So if you're a megaman seeking a tall, dark, mysterious girl, drop Kathy a line.

Melting down, the 21st-century celebrity way

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

solution. But if G.I. Britney wants to gain pop-culture immortality from this ordeal, she should probably do what other crazy artists have done in the past: drink a ton of absinthe, never sell another record, get institutionalized, and mail one of her ears to K-Fed.

Spears isn't the only professional celebrity to have recently entered rehab. Once cute, then cuter, now scary Lindsay Lohan checked into LA's Wonderland Center in January. She had been attending AA meetings for a while before that (odd, she's not even of legal drinking age). Unlike Spears, though, Lindsay might be able to get back in the game after she recovers: she's got some good connection with other professional celebrities like Sean Lennon, having appeared in some of his music videos, and she's a decent actress.

Country star Faith Hill flipped out on national television last year after prematurely accepting the Female Artist of the Year award during the Country Music Awards. She was beaten out by American Idol product Carrie Underwood, said some nasty things on camera, and of course received a ton of attention for it. As far as celebrity breakdowns go, this one is sort of forgivable: its like if Tiger Woods had been bested in a game of golf by his test-tube grown clone. He would be pissed off. No one likes a copycat, especially one who's better

than you.

An absolutely unforgivable breakdown involves "comedian" Michael "Cosmo Kramer" Richards, of Seinfeld fame. A couple months ago, Richards said some really nasty, racially-charged things during his stand-up routine at a comedy club (everyone's probably familiar with this by now), gave a half-assed apology, then went back to work searching for the sitcom glory of his mid-90's career. I really feel bad because I like Richards (who doesn't like Kramer?), and he really hasn't gotten any work since Seinfeld was cancelled, but to take it out so bitterly against people of other ethnic backgrounds is just plain disgusting, in a drunken Mel Gibson sort of way. That's not the Kramer we know and love!

It's kind of the same situation with Tom Cruise (who can forget his publicity-stunt freak out on Oprah) but at least he can blame it on his surging Thetan levels.

So, professional celebrities of the world, do us a favor: if you have problems like normal people, if you're going to have emotional breakdowns like normal people, if you're going to make mistakes like normal people, then please live like normal people. Or, barring that, at least tone your lives down a bit. Maybe donate some of your land to agriculture. Or maybe recycle a Hummer or two. Or, heck, just have your breakdowns in private.

A night-owl prowls with JHU escort van drivers

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

Meanwhile, a horde of freshmen newly armed with Slurpees and candy piled into the van's back seat and immediately let their presence be known.

"Man, there's nothing to do tonight," one of the more vocal passengers said, as he buckled himself into the backseat and adjusted a faded Red Sox hat. "Can you take us to AMR II?"

"Dude, what was that screaming all about in that girl's room?" the Texas Longhorns-clad physics major said, recounting the previous night's events. "Anyways, I kind of want to study tonight."

"F--- that, we are drinking tonight," the overly confident Bostonian retorted. "Or at least drinking for a few hours. Then we'll study."

Ma anxiously checks her cellphone as the passengers return to their dormitories.

"When I first started, I liked to listen in on all the stupid conversations that I would hear," Ma said. "In a way, I would hold court with my friends, revealing every single drunken event that took place in my backseat the previous night. That excitement has definitely faded."

"Shuttle girl, take us to Fiji!" (12:20 a.m.)

"Come on, shuttle girl, race this van to your right," said one

of the anxious frat party crashers before turning to his friend. "Trust me, we can get into this one. I have the connections."

As the aroma of hard liquor senselessly mixed with freshly-smoked marijuana fills the air of the van, Ma quickly adjusts the radio volume so as to block out the backseat's rendition of Guantanamo.

"When they're drunk, especially, I try not to listen to what they say," Ma said. "I just hope they do nothing stupid, like puke all over me. A lot of other drivers have dealt with that kind of thing."

She smiles and nods, as the carefree passengers prepare to bust into a supposedly closed mixer party. Meanwhile, she waves to a slightly disoriented friend of hers, who drives the Wednesday shift, walking toward the frat house.

"Hey, can I really please get to Superfresh?" he said, before revealing a handle of Smirnoff. "I'm just fooling you. I'm straight!"

As he turns to head into the fraternity house, she chuckles.

"All the other shuttle drivers know that I work this shift and they like to try to show me what I'm missing out on," she said. "Well, on Wednesday nights, I always know who to call for a free ride and he'll be sorry!"

Be it slopes or sand, look stylish on spring break

Finally, the long-awaited respite that is spring break approaches once more, providing that necessary exodus from all things school-related.

And while some have been engrossed with studies alone this semester, others have been busy readying themselves for March's week-long hiatus.

Yes, I've seen you in the gym, cantering on treadmills and slaving over the bench press, red in the face, but motivated by thoughts of the "ultimate spring break body" — be it for show on the beach or for use on the slopes.

However, those contoured and toned body parts will go unnoticed if you haven't got the sheaths to show it off and garner that initial double-take from passers-by.

So whether you are jet-setting to the tropics or blazing trails in Aspen, fashion should be of primary concern throughout your sojourn. And why not make each of these seven days white-hot chic by following some simple rules of style.

This means the fashion fun starts well before you arrive at your destination.

Indeed, perhaps the most blatant way of asserting savvy style is by looking "airport chic." This means stepping from your taxi with poise, sporting a modish scarf around your neck, toting a fashionable carry-on, and, above all else, shielding your face with an enormous pair of shades.

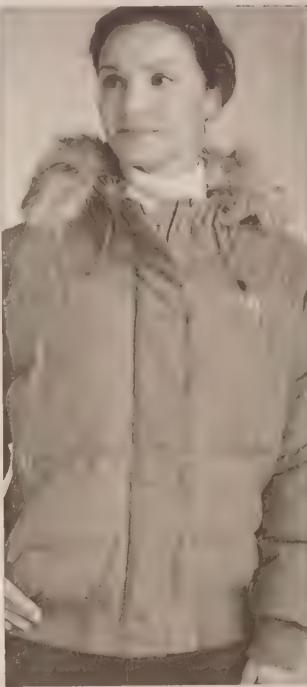
If you're looking for inspiration, take a cue from Victoria Beckham, who strides through airports as if she were on a runway, Birkin in hand, stilettos firmly strapped, and designer shades plastered ear-to-ear. Très chic!

Once you've arrived on your island, mountain, or what have you, immediately check into your room, freshen up, and change into one of the many ensembles you have undoubtedly packed.

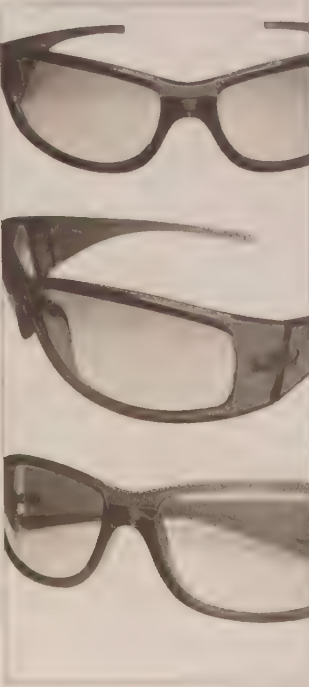
If your destination's a steamy one, then the fashion world has got you covered. In the past couple of months, several new swimsuit designers have become red hot. Among these is Vitamin A, a California-based brand of colorful bikinis and sumptuous one-pieces that have been spotted on the likes of Jessica Alba, Tara



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Everyone needs the proper break wardrobe. Be it Vitamin A's bathing suit or a furry parka, nice sunglasses are key to travel

Reid and Uma Thurman. These sexy little numbers range from \$70-\$300, and can be found at luxury department stores across the country.

For the guys, nothing says "I'm chic at the beach" like a festive patterned Vilebrequin suit, so head over to Nordstrom or Neiman's to browse the selection.

Snowy and cold where you are? All the better! The fashions available for bundling up this winter are of the highest caliber. And if you're not in Aspen, Vail, or even out of Maryland, dressing for the slopes is still an ultimate fashion 'do.'

Nothing is winter-stylish like fur, whether in the form of a Russian "aviator-bomber" hat, a stole, or the trim on your jacket. Not just chic and warm, fur can actually be quite affordable this time of year, when large department stores begin their annual winter overhaul before ushering in the spring/summer collec-

tions. And if you're opposed to the real stuff, the marketplace is flooded with imitation fur, some of which could truly pass as genuine.

Crucial for both snow and sunbirds this spring break is the aforementioned designer shades. This is one brand-name purchase in which everyone should indulge.

Unlike the shoes and bags, which can often cost thousands of dollars, designer sunglasses of good-quality and high style should run you between \$170-\$300, making them relatively affordable for most.

This month's must-haves come in a rainbow of colors, from Dolce and Gabbana's candy-apple-red aviator (\$155) to Miu Miu's pearly-white goggle-frame (\$170).

For the beach crowd, the evenings will be your most "clothed" time of day, making your nighttime wardrobe all the more crucial to your fashion accomplishments this break.

Being conscious of the weather and region, ladies heading to the likes of Florida may choose classic skirts and dresses by Floridian Lilly Pulitzer, or any other colorful, beachy prints.

However, if Miami is your

playground this break, then by all means ditch the Lilly for a racy little number that's sure to get you "unsolicited" looks, as well as some unsolicited drinks.

And for the men, there is no place like Florida to explore your inner Guido. So slick back that hair and unbutton that shirt — you're no longer in the Northeast.

For my cold-weather crowd, the nights are your chance to leave the skis and parkas behind and channel your inner "old-world-lodge-dweller." Think of blazing fireplaces, hot mulled wine and walls showcasing taxidermy at its finest.

While this atmosphere might seem to be ultra-cozy, there is no reason to be spotted in sweatpants and a fleece. Rather, bring out those fairisle sweaters and corduroys for one last hurrah before stowing them away for summer, accessorizing with a pair of moccasins and a weathered vintage belt. The Von Trapp family would be envious!

So whether you're headed east, west, north, south or nowhere, make this spring break a most fashionable fête. Nobody likes to see Facebook albums showcasing offensive attire.



Carter Cramer
Hop Couture

Creative student filmmakers allowed free reign on YouTube

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B3

prospective students to check out [what] the campus looks like." This clip highlights all the places that all students considering the university need to be aware of — from D-level to Levering, to the Recreation center, to the classrooms to on- and off-campus housing facilities.

To enjoy Hopkins and its students in their most random form you should look at the comedic videos.

Freshman Michael Brooks is the creator and producer of a comedic video featured on YouTube entitled "Hopkins Paradise" that has been viewed over 730 times.

This hilarious music video to Coolio's "Gangsta's Paradise" is filmed in housing and academic facilities on campus and features many Hopkins students. Brooks said that while the video is not intended to reflect the University, he does parody the academic and stereotypical "uptight" nature of Hopkins — calculus study sessions gone bad, the "geekiness" of Xbox and Magic the Gathering homework breaks — in an attempt to showcase irony.

Brooks said that this was his "first attempt at a funny movie" and he got the idea while experimenting with a video program.

Like many students who post comical videos on YouTube, he and the rest of the cast filmed the video in their spare time. Looking at it, I was surprised to learn that it took only two weekends to complete and that it is mostly improvised.

Creating YouTube videos can be a community builder as much as sharing them is.

Brooks got his suitcases and friends from campus involved in the video — he explained the idea to them; they thought it was funny;

and while some students would not do the video because they thought it would be embarrassing, a lot of his friends opted in.

In the video, the friends and housemates of Michael Brooks make some "interesting" attempts at dancing and lip-syncing the lyrics.

The loose plot of the video is that a gang of Hopkins students, apparently gone bad from attending the University, hide out in dorms and buildings waiting to attack unsuspecting students

on their ways to calculus class.

For a much needed break from stressing over midterms or just to help you get in a more relaxed Spring Break mood, check out "Hopkins Paradise" and the other comedic clips on YouTube of your school and classmates that are guaranteed to have you laughing: "Tree Eating Monster," "Singing and dancing to S Club 7," "Younghoon as McGuyver," "Jingle Bells," and sophomore Chris Ludgate's "Stand-Up Comedy Routine."



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MATT HANSEN/NEWS-LETTER

Student filmmakers are going beyond celluloid — if only someone would finance "JHU King Kong," maybe Hopkins could score the next on-line sensation and attract the attention of Peter Jackson.

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



COURTESY OF THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART
Photographer Jeff Wall was one of eight artists interviewed at the BMA's *Conversations*.

Photography turns an eye on itself with BMA talks

By **PATRICK KENNEDY**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

The premise behind the Baltimore Museum of Art's new public forum series, *Conversations with Contemporary Photographers*, is not particularly complex. Simply invite eight of the best-known artists in today's international market, pair them off for discussions with two prominent Baltimore-based critics, and wait for the sparks to fly. Simple as it is, such a format would provide at the very least a summary of the more valuable accomplishments of recent photography. But at best, a program like *Conversations with Contemporary Photographers* should facilitate the kind of rigorous discourse and debate that, sadly, too often seems an afterthought in America's present art scene.

Fortunately, if the starting installment in the series is any indication of how all four of this spring's *Conversations* will play out, the museum's visitors should have reason to hold the latter, and better, of these expectations. Moderated by Michael Fried, a well-respected art critic and the James R. Herbert Boone Chair of the Humanities at Johns Hopkins, the first of the

symposia brought photographers Jeff Wall and Stephen Shore to the BMA's Meyerhoff Auditorium last Thursday. The three men faced a packed audience, and worked through a well-organized yet comfortably paced program of picture slides and discussion questions. Taken on their own, Wall's and Shore's practices would have been fascinating subjects to any photo aficionado. However, the first conversation also offered what was, on several levels, a genuinely inside view of the practice of art photography from the middle of the 20th century right up to the present.

Aided by funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, along with contributions from BMA donors, Fried and Darsie Alexander, the museum's senior curator of Contemporary Art, arranged the conversations. Alexander, who will serve as moderator for the final discussion on April 26, is a specialist in contemporary photography who formulated the 2005 BMA exhibition *SlideShow*. Fried, for his part, is currently working on a book entitled *Why Photography Matters as Art as Never Before*.

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Master of ribaldry: Steven Lynch at Shriver Hall

By **ASHLEY WIETSMA**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Stephen Lynch's concert at Shriver Hall last Friday was one of those times when it's an asset to be on good terms with your neighborhood scalper. Some fans waited outside the auditorium for six hours just to get in. An hour before the show started, the auditorium was already three-quarters full. All this excitement was reserved for guitarist and comedian Stephen Lynch.

Lynch's show was arranged by the Hopkins Organization for Programming (HOP). This was the HOP's second sold-out engagement this year, the first being comedian Pablo Francisco's show last fall. The energy level was high as everyone sat in anticipation for Lynch to appear. In showbiz tradition, he finally appeared 20 minutes after the scheduled time to an ocean of cheering and applause. There was no doubt in anyone's mind that this was going to be a great show.

Beginning as a theatre major at Western Michigan University in the early '90s, Lynch began

writing comic songs and playing guitar as a hobby, without any real plans to pursue a career as a comic musician. In New York City, his pursuit of an acting career was quickly overshadowed by his unique comedic acts. Playing ironic, amusing and usually offensive songs, Lynch would have his audience rolling in the aisles. His big break came when Comedy Central gave him his own hour-long segment on their series *Comedy Central Presents*. With a smile he says, "They could have easily said no after I auditioned." But they didn't and it gave Lynch the national recognition that established him as a prominent comedian. He's opened up for Lewis Black, David Chappelle and the late Mitch Hedberg. He described Hedberg as his favorite comedian to work with but only on "his good days."

Though he has been touring and performing for over two decades, Lynch told his crowd in Shriver Hall that he was honestly nervous and felt a little rusty. Baltimore is his first stop on his tour after taking a break to appear in the Broadway musical, *The Wedding Singer*, based on

the hit Adam Sandler movie. The creators of the musical approached him to play the lead character of Robbie Hart. The musical ran for four short months from April to December of 2006, but Lynch did manage to snag a Tony Award nomination for his performance.

He's happy to be back on tour playing his own pieces again. On the road, he has more time to work on new songs now that he isn't controlled by the grueling eight weekly performances of the musical.

For Lynch, it's truly about the music. "If I didn't write songs, I wouldn't do comedy," he says. He considers himself a musician/comedian and not the reverse.

Coming onto stage with his guitar in one hand and a bottle of Corona in the other, Lynch immediately bonded with the audience. Like most comedic acts, he continued to interact with the crowd throughout the show. Opening with "Dr. Stephen," a song about his aspirations to be a gynecologist, the



CONOR KEVITT/NEWS-LETTER
Lynch performs one of his politically incorrect songs.



CONOR KEVITT/NEWS-LETTER
Lynch (L) was joined by his buddy Rod Cone, who supplied some bawdy harmonies.

crude and humorous tone was immediately set. While sitting on a stool, he even managed to spread his legs as if in stirrups so he could play while "being in the patient's perspective."

Lynch's songs discussed everything from the perverted temptations of a Catholic clergyman in "Priest" to the life as a homeless French bum in "Pierre." The ideas come randomly to mind while reading, watching television, or even riding the subway. The lyrics were witty and continued to surprise the audience. "Vanilla Ice Cream" tells the story of a white guy breaking up his girlfriend because of her race — "Just don't take it personally, this is no attack / But we will never last because I am white and you are ... also white."

Other highlights included his classic song, "Special", about his childhood best friend who was dropped as a baby and now eats dirt and names his toes. "Superhero," another older hit, encouraged the crowd to shout out ideas of inappropriate superhero names for Lynch to sing about — Ball-Sack Boy, for example. The audience was also the first to hear some of his newest material including a series of songs based on diary entries of famous individuals. One spoke about the writer's excitement to tame his new wild horse. The author

was revealed as none other than Christopher Reeve.

Lynch rarely tours alone and tonight was no exception. Rod Cone, a friend from college, came out to sing the hilarious song, "She Gotta Smile." They sang about man's worst enemy when it comes to hooking up with the cute girl at the bar, her "big fat friend." Luckily, he had his non-discriminating friend to distract the girl proclaiming, "So what if you're a cow / I'll nail you anyhow!" Also accompanying him is a co-star from *The Wedding Singer*, David Joseffberg. Together they sang the most wonderfully offensive songs, like "Little Tiny Moustache" which is about the graphic sexual act termed, the Dirty Sanchez. While both Cone and Joseffberg are entertaining, Lynch performs best on his own. The audience would have preferred to hear more of his solo songs than the numerous group songs he performed.

The songs never ceased to shock and please the crowd in Shriver. Though many would find Lynch distasteful, he doesn't like "being offensive for the sake of being offensive." He doesn't find "shocking to be funny." Walking the thin line of appropriateness is something he truly enjoys. However, Lynch can't help to admit to the crowd, "I can get away with so much when I sing about stuff."

HSO showcases novel and classic pieces

By **PATRICK MEANEY**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

On March 4 the Hopkins Symphony Orchestra played a three-piece set for a small, though appreciative, audience. Starting the program was a world premiere commission from Andrew Cole, a Peabody graduate with masters degrees in music composition and computer music, entitled *Maya Beckons: I Shall Embrace Her*. Hopkins' own Matt Sterling assisted Cole with the electronic realization. The piece, introduced by conductor Jeff Gaylin as being beautiful and soaring, was only superficially so; at times it loomed huge and monstrous; at others it waned sparse and wandering. It went beyond the typical

balance between popular and serious art music. Indeed, as the piece ended, there was a moment of confusion among the audience, which was whether to clap or hold its breath. In all, a most excellent work from a young composer.

Next on the program was Ravel's *Concerto in G*. Soloist Sonya Lifschitz ably manned the piano and led the orchestra well through the piece's delightful chaos. Dressed up something like a red-haired gypsy, she picturesquely evoked the piece's exoticism, bowing and swaying to the dictates of the melodies. Her handling of the lengthy second movement, which focused mainly on the piano, was superb; her fine touch revealed the complexities behind the

The rollicking first movement went without a hitch; the day's pattern of excellence continued unabated.

part's seeming simplicity. Nor were the faster sections any less admirable; rather, they thrilled and awed. Under Gaylin, Ravel's ingenious orchestrations came out brilliantly as well.

Following the intermission, the HSO tackled Beethoven's enormous Seventh Symphony. The rollicking first movement went without a hitch; the day's pattern of excellence continued unabated. However, the second Allegretto movement, which has made the work famous from its first performance, was hardly allegretto. It felt rushed, needlessly so, as though it were some kind of repertory showcase piece. Just as Lifschitz had demonstrated the wonder of Ravel's Adagio from the earlier concerto, Gaylin similarly wounded the soul of the supernatural allegretto by moving forward some few beats per minute too fast. At the grand

close of the movement, the tempo finally reached its appropriate mark, but by then it was hardly worthwhile, a sad moment of what should have been.

This might have been excusable if the theme of the performance were stylized swiftiness. However, Gaylin took his time with the following Presto, as though in his head he heard each section of the symphony played at the same tempo throughout. The rolling feeling from the first movement has here returned with a more simple joy to it; we hear a triple-meter rollicking third movement similar to that of the Sixth Symphony, the so-called *Pastoral*. And yet the HSO performance lacked vigor, blood or spirit. Even at the slower tempo, the brass section twice disagreed with itself at a certain downward arpeggio in the gentle reprisal. One wondered if perhaps the orchestra could not play up to speed — hardly a reproachable fault given the notorious reputation of all of Beethoven's symphonies among players — but if this were in fact the case, why hustle through the one movement whose power is its solemn bearing?

Similarly, the final movement sounded nearly abortive. Gaylin's hesitant rubato was confusing to listener and orchestra alike. Even the crazy person sitting next to me had trouble keeping his own tempo with his hand clapping.

For all of its faults, however, the whole of the symphony was above par. The orchestra played faithfully to the conductor's direction, and for the most part without error. What bothered me most was all the empty seats in Shriver Hall — I wondered what dear thing everyone was so occupied with that they had to miss this afternoon of great music.

X-ray exhibit throws spotlight on terrorism

By **ALEX BEGLEY**
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Everyone in America is familiar with terrorism. Unfortunately, so is everyone else in the world. It is a global threat that isn't reserved for one nation, religion or culture. This was the idea that drove documentary photographer Diane Covert to create her newest exhibit, *Inside Terrorism*.

Hopkins Hillel is hosting *Inside Terrorism* in the Mattin Center until Thursday of this week. The exhibit features a collection of x-rays and CT scans of the victims of suicide bombs. Unlike her previous

documentary photographs (including scenes of small-town life in Missouri and the meatpacking industry), this project shows other's documentations of life during wartime. Covert says, "This is a documentary of survivors of terrorism. Much like photographer Mathew Brady documented the Civil War, people in emergency rooms today are documenting the effects of terrorism." These aren't the gory scenes of ruthless devastation that win awards in photojournalism, these are scientific documents that bring to light the bare bones of this gruesome warfare.

The exhibit is small but pow-



LAURA BITNER/NEWS-LETTER
The victims of terror get an interesting spotlight with the X-ray exhibit at the Hillel.

erful and yet at the same time choppy. There are many x-rays of the same person that were placed in totally different buildings. Often this made it hard to make connections but it was effective in creating a disjointed feel. Though it may have been hard to follow just one story line it was not hard to see the beauty in many of the images. The starkness of the black and white of each shot and the faint, illuminated outlines of bones, tissue and arteries against the darker silhouettes of shrapnel in the form of hex nuts and wristwatches was powerful. The viewer had to peer into each picture, and in some cases had to look at a procession of magnified images to see the real damage that each bit of shrapnel had done.

The first x-ray was accompanied by text that told the story of a college-aged girl (this was one of the few pieces that was accompanied with a story) who was on a bus when a suicide bomber detonated. The bus had just stopped outside of a hospital. It may have been the terrorist's intent to cause damage to the hospital, but the proximity of the explosion saved the girl's life. The faceplate of the bomber's wristwatch sliced through the girl's neck and lodged there, cutting through the carotid artery, preventing the flow of blood to her brain. Had she not been near help at that time she would have surely died. Covert

CONTINUED ON PAGE B7

Music and Lyrics succumbs to genre’s pitfalls

By AISHA SABER
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

Romantic comedies just aren’t what they used to be. Gone are the days of fluid, funny and first-rate romantic comedies where the far-fetched and seemingly improbable plot lines, while not entirely believable, were camouflaged by the brilliantly convincing chemistry between the leading lady and her male counterpart. *Music and Lyrics*, in all its fruitless though formidable attempts, falls prey to the second-rate epidemic that has befallen the cinematic genre of romantic comedy.

Alex Fletcher (masterfully portrayed by a relentlessly witty and cunning Hugh Grant) is a washed-up ‘80s pop star who has waved bye-bye to the lavish world of fame and stardom and has been demoted to performing at high school reunions and county fairs. Fletcher, once a member of an ‘80s pop group called Pop!, has just been confronted by a VH1-esque television network to appear on a new show called ‘Battle of the ‘80s Has-Beens.’ However, Fletcher’s slow sleigh ride into oblivion is halted when his manager (played by the dry and comical Brad Garrett) approaches him with a life-changing offer. The newest pop sensation Cora — think Britney Spears in her glory days (before K-Fed and shaved head; you know, when she used to be hot)—is a fan of Fletcher’s old work and wants him to write a song and perform it with her at her concert in Madison Square Garden in three days’ time.

Impossible? Not for a romantic comedy. However, Fletcher, a gifted composer who is not much of a lyricist, is obstructed in his journey back to fame and recognition. How will he ever write a song in three days without a lyricist? Enter Sophie Fisher, unexceptionally played by a mediocre Drew Barrymore.

Fisher’s character, temporarily wa-tering Fletcher’s plants, spontane-ously rattles off some cheesy lyrics that convince Fletcher that she is the only person that can help him finish the song for Cora in time. Needless to say, in true roman-tic comedy fash-ion, Fletcher and Fisher’s relation-ship whimsically develops over the three-day period in efforts to pro-duce a bona-fide hit for the clichéd pop megastar Cora while still managing to fall in love at the same time. Aww.

The chemistry between Grant and Barrymore in *Music and Lyrics* doesn’t really materialize or reach full po-tential. Both are accomplished actors, prince and princess of the romantic comedy genre. Al-though Grant is typecast as the quick-witted and sarcastic British charmer (almost identi-cal to his cel-ebrated roles as Daniel Cleaver in *Bridget Jones’s Diary*, William Thacker in *Not-ting Hill*, or Will in *About A Boy*), he shines in the role of Alex Fletcher. On the other hand, Barrymore seems unchallenged and detached from both Sophie’s character and playing the quirky love-interest that she has perfected in such films as *The Wedding Singer* and *50 First Dates*. Regrettably, Grant is no Sandler to her Barrymore.



COURTESY OF HTTP://WWW.ALLMOVIEPHOTO.COM
Drew Barrymore and Hugh Grant fail to generate sparks in the romantic comedy *Music and Lyrics*.

At best, Barrymore and Grant are highly convincing as friends and creative partners; but as ro-mantic interests, they can’t seem to hit the right notes.

Compensating for the lack of chemistry between Barrymore and Grant, there are some laugh- out-loud moments in the film, includ-ing the open-ing video of Pop!’s hit single “Pop Goes My Heart.” The ri-diculous, over-d r a m a t i z e d video brings back the glori-ous days of leg-ends and teased bangs. *Music and Lyrics* also includes a scath-ing commentary on the music in-dustry or “the business” as Alex Fletcher’s been-there, failed-that character bitterly explains to Fisher.

The idea of disposable pop

MUSIC AND LYRICS

Starring: Hugh Grant, Drew Barrymore, Scott Porter
Director: Marc Lawrence
Run Time: 1 hour 26 min
Rating: PG-13
Playing at: The Senator, AMC Towson Commons

The Slip give a dance-worthy performance

By REBECCA MESSNER
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

I bought The Slip’s newest album, *Eisenhower*, on iTunes last week. “Ex-jam turned indie rock” is a perfect way to describe them. The album is easy to listen to—the band keeps the musical intricacy that once could have made them a jam band, but it’s all poppy enough for you to sing along to, and only one of the songs is more than seven minutes long. It stands in stark contrast to their earlier releases — even the album they released only months before is decidedly more wandering and jazz-based. In this album they seem to be following the progressive rock trends set by the likes of Death Cab for Cutie or the Decemberists. It’s a cool, solid sound, full of great steady guitar lines and crisp vocal harmonies.

The songs themselves are just the right blend of movement and structure, never becoming formulaic or boring. The closest the band gets to disjointed jammy-ness is on the instrumental track “First Panda in Space”, which harks back to the structure of their earlier stuff but still has a moving electric feel, eventually acting as more of an intro to the following song than a statement itself. The rest is lyrical and catchy, especially the first two tracks. “Children of December” pays homage to all those children whose December birthdays go forgotten. “When you’re born on Christmas or the day before New Year’s they can sing ‘happy birthday’ but nobody hears.” “Even Rats” follows, and it is indeed a pretty great, if unconventionally subtle, protest song. “Maybe the men up on Capitol Hill need a little less Jack and a little more Jill/you can have my stereo/Even though the race may never be won I can lay like a dandy getting heavy in the sun/Take a love song and beautify.” The head-banging guitar was rocking enough to warrant this song’s inclusion on that crazy new game *Guitar Hero*.

In a coincidence of perfect timing, my hippie jam-ophile of a friend announced she was going to see The Slip in concert on

March 1st at the Recher Theatre in Towson. She was more a fan of their earlier, jammier stuff, but had seen them a couple of times live before. So I was pumped, and my expectations were high. I liked the idea of a lyrical prog-rock band with a history of heavy improvisation.

The house wasn’t packed — which could have been attributed to it being a miserably rainy Thursday, but the crowd consisted of everyone from teenage Avril Lavignes to soccer dads, and of course, your usual long-haired dancing hippies and some skeezy-looking Towson regulars. The look of the band itself was decidedly more emo than jam band — dark jeans and stringy hair.

They were set up in an unconventional way, with the bassist Marc Friedman in the middle and lead guitarist/vocalist (and Billy Crudup as an *Almost Famous* look-alike) Brad Barr off on stage left with drummer Andrew Barr on the other side. The shock was the fact that there are only three of them — guitar, bass and drums — hugely surprising considering the fullness of their sound. And their sound was full. They opened with “Even Rats,”

apparently their most popular song. A few people sang along. That was delivered pretty solidly, but from then on, they wavered from sounding full and together to just loud and sometimes sloppy. It occurred to me then that the unique combination that initially attracted me to The Slip so much could potentially produce a fragmented, noisy sound. Loud and jammy sometimes doesn’t yield such great results. I hesitate to make any generalizations, however. There were genuine moments of togetherness, when the strength of sound the band was aiming for played to their favor. Their enthusiasm was definitely high — Barr broke a total of maybe four guitar strings. The sound just didn’t seem polished enough at times.

The overall effect was a good, fun, dance-worthy show, despite any messiness. They closed their encore with “Children of December,” and in an extended outro, in which Brad Barr kept jamming while climbing up to stand on the top of the 15-foot amp, jumping back to stage on the final chord. It was a true rockstar moment. I half expected him to shout “I am a golden god!” on the way down.



COURTESY OF JOHN FRATTALONE
Former jam-band, the Slip, flexed their indie rock muscles at the Recher theater.

New Vibrations

Modest Mouse
We Were Dead Before the Ship Even Sank
Sony
March 20, 2007



Ten years and counting, Modest Mouse is still pumping out new albums. Their latest release, *We Were Dead Before the Ship Sank*, while enjoyable, is nothing fresh or particularly exciting, show-casing a band content to fiddle around and expand on their old sound.

It is in many ways a variation and an extension of the musical styles that were established on their strongest albums, *Lone-some Crowded West* and *The Moon & Antarctica*. The album features front-man Isaac Brock and company writhing around and pounding their way through fourteen tracks, cloaked in guitar-work that echoes and stutters, climactic and danceable drum-ming, while various keyboards, trumpets, and other accompany-ing instruments blurt all over the place.

Much like their previous re-lease, *Good News for People Who Love Bad News*, a good deal of at-tention is now being paid to what direction the band is heading, especially after finding a specific niche within the MTV-watching demographic. Their first single, “Dashboard,” is a catchy piece that manages to not compromise the indie-rock approach to their

songwriting.

There are several other tracks that seem to be suited for indie-to-mainstream crossover success, such as “We’ve Got Everything”, featuring a simple structure built around the melodic reprises in the song, “Missed the Boat” also falls somewhere along these lines, not abstract enough to turn away mainstream listeners, but still maintaining enough familiar sensibilities to please long-time listeners.

Yet other tracks aspire for more than your generic MTV single, such as “Spitting Venom”. Brock croons over a simple acoustic guitar, until the piece breaks into a rambling wall of noise and rhythmic drumming.

Modest Mouse is an interest-ing position within the main-stream circuit, approaching that position between songwriting with strong artistic ethics and songwriting with a wide appeal, currently held by bands like Ra-diohead and the Gorillaz. *We Were Dead* is not Modest Mouse throwing in the towel and sell-ing-out, but rather a solid docu-mentation of a band trying to as-sert and stand firm in the sonic landscape that they have sculpted for themselves.

—William Parschalk

Amon Tobin
Foley Room
Ninja Tune
March 6, 2007



It’s not often that an LP comes with the sort of complex produc-tion notes that usually accompa-ny a full-length film, but Amon Tobin’s thrilling new release *Foley Room* is no ordinary album. Sewn together from innumera-ble original sounds that Tobin and his assistants recorded on the streets — including motors, doors shutting, animals eating other animals and, according to the Ninja Tune website, “neigh-bors singing in the bath” — the album is a dense, often distur-bing record of a sonically chaotic world. And unlike the sample-heavy music of other cut-and-paste artists, like DJ Shadow or Massive Attack, Tobin’s creation manages to sound organic rather than electronic, with deeply satisfying beats and melodies drawn out of the most unexpect-ed noises.

Although Tobin — a Brazil-ian-born, Britain-bred musician and DJ with four critically-released albums under his belt — has made a name for himself by assembling strange, disjoint-ed and rhythmically sophisti-cated music from samples of vi-

nyl recordings, his new release emphasizes sounds that aren’t recognizably “music.” Tobin’s accomplishment lies in piecing together these disparate units of sounds into songs that open up into surprisingly beautiful tracts of melody.

His first single, “Bloodstone,” often sounds like a chamber group going slowly insane — yet its sublimely cinematic quali-ties keep the intricate, slightly unhinged melodies in the fore-ground. The down-tuned pipe organ of “The Killer’s Vanilla” evokes a kind of church-on-acid feel, and “Ever Falling” features samples of choral humming over the sounds of breaking glass.

Tobin’s compositions have nei-ther lyrics nor much in the way of context. They belong, rather, to a unique, macabre world — one that happily holds up to multiple listens.

— Xiao-bo Yuan

Wilco
Sky Blue Sky
Nonesuch
May 15, 2007



Wilco’s newest record isn’t out for mass consumption yet, but there are definitely more than a few reasons to get excited for its release. Actually, there are 12. The press is already buzzing over the song list for this album and it seems, for the most part, deserved.

They start off soft and slow with “Either Way,” moving on to “You Are My Face,” which has some jazzy guitar riffs that’ll get those toes tapping. Next is “Im-possible Germany,” which ends the airy, flowing intro to the rest of the album.

The title track brings you back to Wilco’s folk-based roots. The guys use an acoustic guitar for this one as well as an organ, which gives it a mellow, authen-tic sound.

In “Shake It Off,” the intro sets

you up to be incredibly bored with long pauses and semi-whiney lyrics. Luckily the band redeems itself in the last half of the song with some fun hipster-influenced rhythms. And don’t forget the cowbell.

For those of you who are look-ing for a taste of Wilco’s *Sum-mer Teeth*, “Walken” is the clos-est you’ll get from them on this disk.

They seem to have grown up by using different instruments to create an updated, cooler sound. So if you can handle the fact that they’ve changed quite a bit, you are sure to enjoy this.

— Sammy Rose Saltzman

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Amaranthine Museum exhibits one man's musings

By SASHA ROUSSEAU
The Johns Hopkins News-Letter

We're a country that values individuality so much that we don't have time for each individual. The *Labyrinth* exhibit at Baltimore's Amaranthine Museum gives one man's answer to how the world works. But despite being less than a mile from the renowned Baltimore Museum of Art, this one-man show lies buried in a forgotten crevice of the city.

On Clipper Road lies a hulking ruin of a semi-abandoned warehouse. Next to the warehouse is a new in-ground swimming pool surrounded by Greek columns. And across the street at 2010 is the Amaranthine Museum, although 'museum' is a misnomer for the one-man gallery housed in this raw industrial loft. As soon as we enter, a curator thrusts into the only path not blocked off by roughly woven curtains nailed to the walls.

Puke pinks and snot greens, wooden bobbles and broken statuary litter every corner of the impromptu corridor. The curator tells us this work represents the "modern" era. As we walk through *The Labyrinth*, we are told, we'll be going back in time.

A scrap of paper is nailed to the wall ten yards or so further down the hall. "1940s," it says. Regardless of the decade this artwork is meant to represent, it is still all done in the same pinks and turquoises. Most of the exhibit is made up of acrylic painting on massive particleboard slabs. Interspersed are wooden constructions, most of them featuring poles with spheres connected to the end. These constructions are mostly the size of table centerpieces, though one is as large as a toddler's bed. There are only a few canvases, and these are usually ripped and bound, the frayed edges of the cloth tied back to reveal the wall behind the work.

The most aesthetically pleasing pieces are the handful of

framed windows of about one foot by one foot, which contain melted colored glass or mirror fragments. These pieces have deeper colors and interesting, asymmetrical compositions. In a particularly beautiful one, drops of burgundy bleed into clear glass. Also fascinating are the large flat wooden constructions, made up of pieces of intricate frame and flat particleboard nailed together to form richly textured surfaces for painstaking studies of masterworks.

Each construction has studies from a particular master or school: there is a Van Gogh construction, and Michelangelo is apparently a particular favorite of the artist. Bits and pieces from a Who's Who of Western art zigzag across the surfaces regardless of texture. Dozens of these pieces line two walls of the gallery. It is here that we turn a corner and stumble into a lively, white-bearded man. Smiling, he apologizes and tells us that he's blind. Then he tells us that he's the artist.

Les Harris worked on the massive body of work that is *The Labyrinth* from the mid-seventies until the mid-nineties. He's done studies and reinterpretations of everything from the art of the ancient Egyptians on, and arranged them in "chronological" order.

Harris has been obsessed with expression and perception throughout his 78 years, whether as a student during his G.I. Bill days at the Maryland Institute College of Art, as an art teacher raising his three children, or as a

host to visitors curious about *The Labyrinth*.

He guides visitors through his gallery, pointing out the specifics of his work from memory, and spinning his massive pieces to show details hidden by shadows and walls. Standing near the only untorn, large-scale canvas, a visitor points out his favorite bits. Harris scrambles over, eager to show the visitor more. He is inches away from the canvas, but he still can't see. He stretches his arms across the piece, rubbing it with extended fingers and flat palms, until he can feel the globs of paint that guide him.

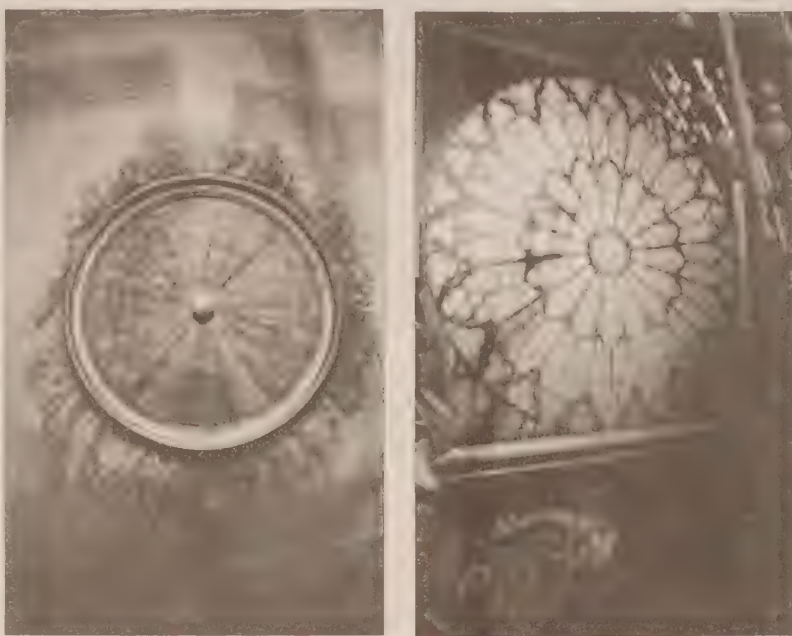
Harris can't see his own paintings anymore, but he still needs to be a part of them. A decade ago, he began to lose his sight to macular degeneration. He first noticed that peripherals were easier to see than anything head-on. Then, he started to lose his sense of color. Sunsets became turquoise, and pumpkins became pink.

Offbeat and psychedelic, the gallery is obviously a labor of love. The pieces are cheaply con-

structed settings for flat, relatively amateur copies of better painters and better paintings. The space is arranged thoughtlessly, forcing the viewer to stand within a couple feet of large paintings, and look down from afar on small constructions. Stumbling into the gallery off of MD-83, there is a feeling reminiscent of Alice meeting the Mad Hatter.

After all, as Harris ambles through *The Labyrinth*, chattering and picking his way through the crumbled statues and angled particleboard, it's easy to dismiss him. But maybe the man is a visionary. After all, his eyes didn't start telling him the world is made up of shades of snot green and puke pink until 1997, but he's done his work in those colors since the seventies.

The Labyrinth is worth seeing for the experience of seeing it, if not for the art that is displayed. Harris' gallery gives the visitor a fascinating, if at times disturbing, peek into an individual's earnest quest to make sense of the world, one era at a time.



These pieces are from the Greek and Gothic sections of *The Labyrinth* at the Amaranthine Museum.

Series plumbs the essence of modern photography

CONTINUED FROM PAGE B6

Both Wall and Shore were born in the mid-1940s, and both created many of their finest pictures in color photography — a medium that began to earn serious critical recognition thanks to Shore's work in the 1970s. Yet there are integral differences between the two photographers' accomplishments, which Fried elucidated before inviting the pair onstage to talk about their art.

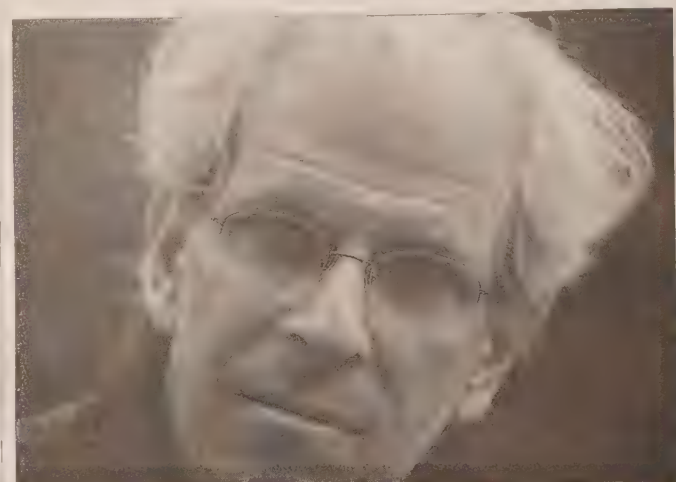
Shore, who spent part of his early career in Warhol's Factory, explained later that the famed pop artist had taught him a "distanced appreciation of the culture" in America. This mentality was evident in many of the early photos that Fried presented, which included a powerful selection of shots that Shore took during cross-country trips during the '70s. Human beings seldom appear in these scenes, which contain vacated lots and streets but feature, perhaps surprisingly, an incredibly rich palette. Such shots, though carefully balanced, were found almost at random—products of the "intelligence, concentration, and delicacy" that Shore cited as the traits of a true photographic artist in his 1982 book *Uncommon Places*.

Wall's aesthetic is somewhat

different. Several of his photographs—literally pieced together by computer from multiple digitized frames—are themselves pre-fabricated formal puzzles that employ built sets and hand-picked actors. There is a deadpan smartness to much of his work that matches nicely with Wall's public persona—precise, articulate, and steeped in art history.

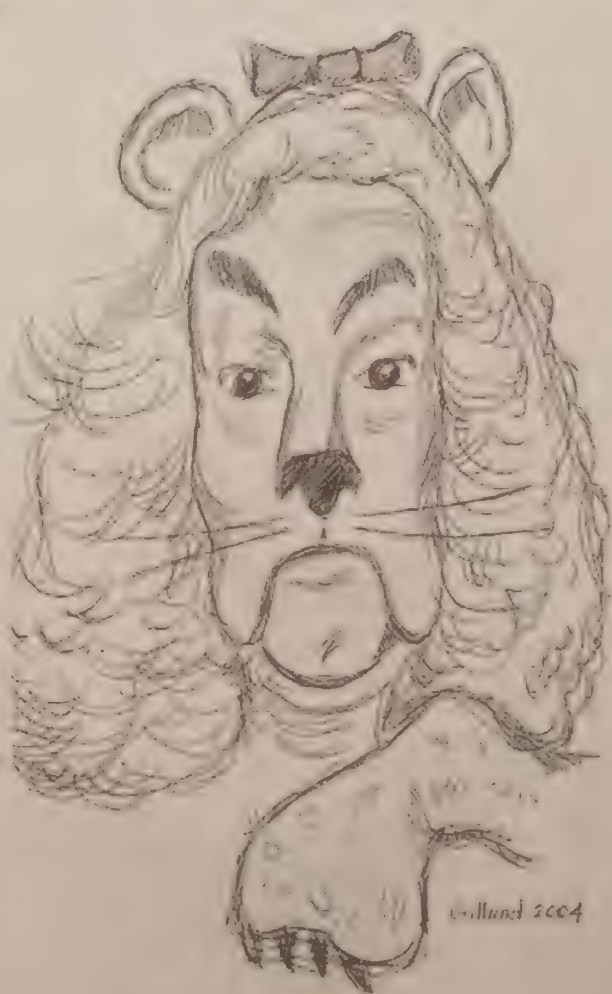
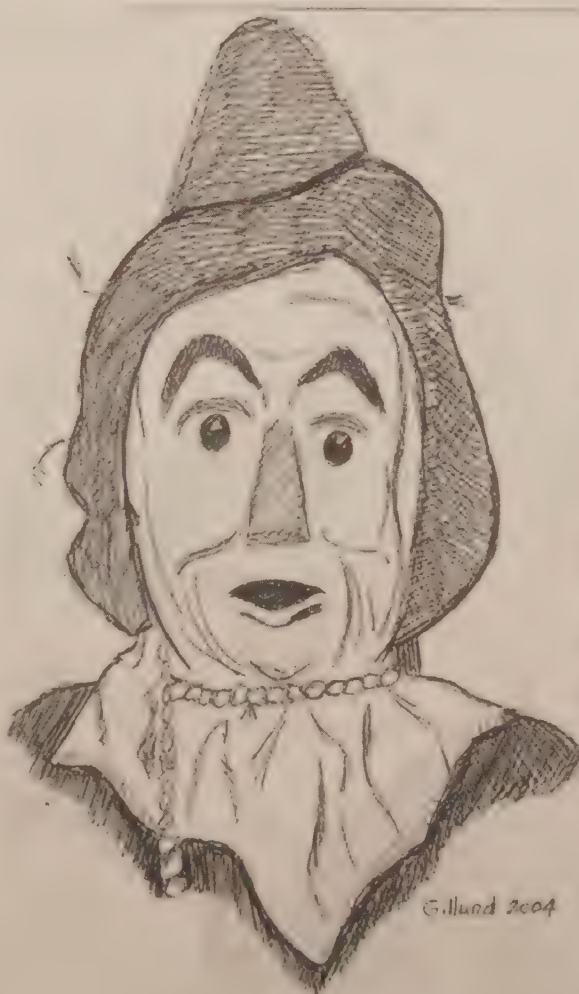
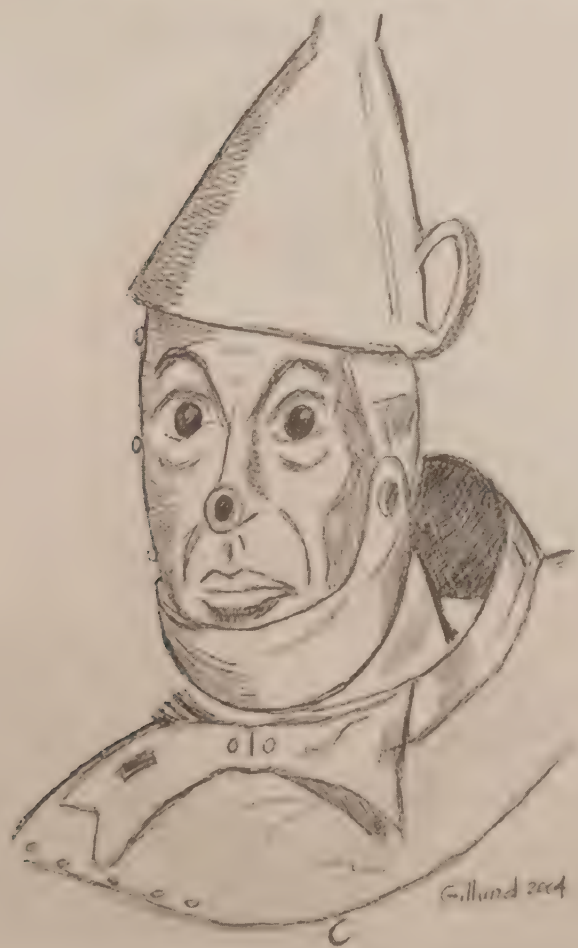
After Fried's overview, the visiting artists sat down for a brief panel-type discussion, which confronted everything from conceptual art to the future of art photography. However, the three men also worked from Fried's initial set of questions to generate an exchange on the larger art-historical implications of recent photography. As Wall stated, photography is in many ways "an elusive medium." But having discovered the merits of media like art film early in his career, he had concluded that photography is "not so different from other arts."

Conversations with Contemporary Photographers will continue at the Baltimore Museum of Art on Wednesday, March 21 at 7 p.m. Michael Fried will host a discussion with photographers Thomas Demand and James Welling.



COURTESY OF THE BALTIMORE MUSEUM OF ART
Stephen Shore, a former colleague of Andy Warhol, spoke at the BMA on March 4.

Looking for the end of the Rainbow?



Follow the internet road to www.BuyOz.com

CARTOONS, ETC.

your horoscope



Aries: (March 21 - April 19)
Sammy Rose Saltzman just told everybody at the *News-Letter* a deep, shameful secret. But we'd never tell. No, never. We wouldn't.



Taurus: (April 20 - May 20)
Confessed to a few too many gory murders in the past week? No worries. Big Sugar, your cellmate, loves to sing songs and cuddle.



Gemini: (May 21 - June 20)
To all you Britney Spears fans still clinging to hope for a comeback: Give it up, kids. Let go of the beautiful dream. She ain't coming back.



Cancer: (June 21 - July 22)
Everyone seems to think that Sal Gentile's grapes are delicious and perfectly edible. But his incessant rubbing has really ruined them.



Leo: (July 23 - August 22)
That summer you spent hunting unicorns with a whaler's harpoon off the coast of Greenland — you were on so much acid that summer.



Virgo: (August 23 - Sept. 22)
"She said, he said" situations don't solve themselves. In lieu of mediation, we suggest that you engage in a giant jello wrestling match.



Libra: (Sept. 23 - October 22)
Deep down, you knew you were never going to get that pet chimpanzee for your birthday. But can we blame you for crying?



Scorpio: (October 23 - Nov. 21)
Throated?! What does that even mean? But seriously. Let's return to Britney Spears. The most we can hope for her is a grainy sex vid.



Sagittarius: (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)
"And I mean it this time!" That's what President Brody said the last time he warned you off your amorous advances toward him.



Capricorn: (Dec. 23 - January 19)
It seems so unfair that Britney is the only Mouseketeer whose career is on the rails. Speaking of rails, we hear they facilitate trains.



Aquarius: (January 20 - Feb. 18)
Really happy that these lamest horoscopes ever are coming to an end? I wouldn't be so sure, guy! I have like five more lines to fill!



Pisces: (Feb. 19 - March 20)
Sucks that you suck, Sucky. No, seriously. We give Britney two more months before she defecates on a picture of the Pope on SNL.

Toad Detective

by Matt Hansen



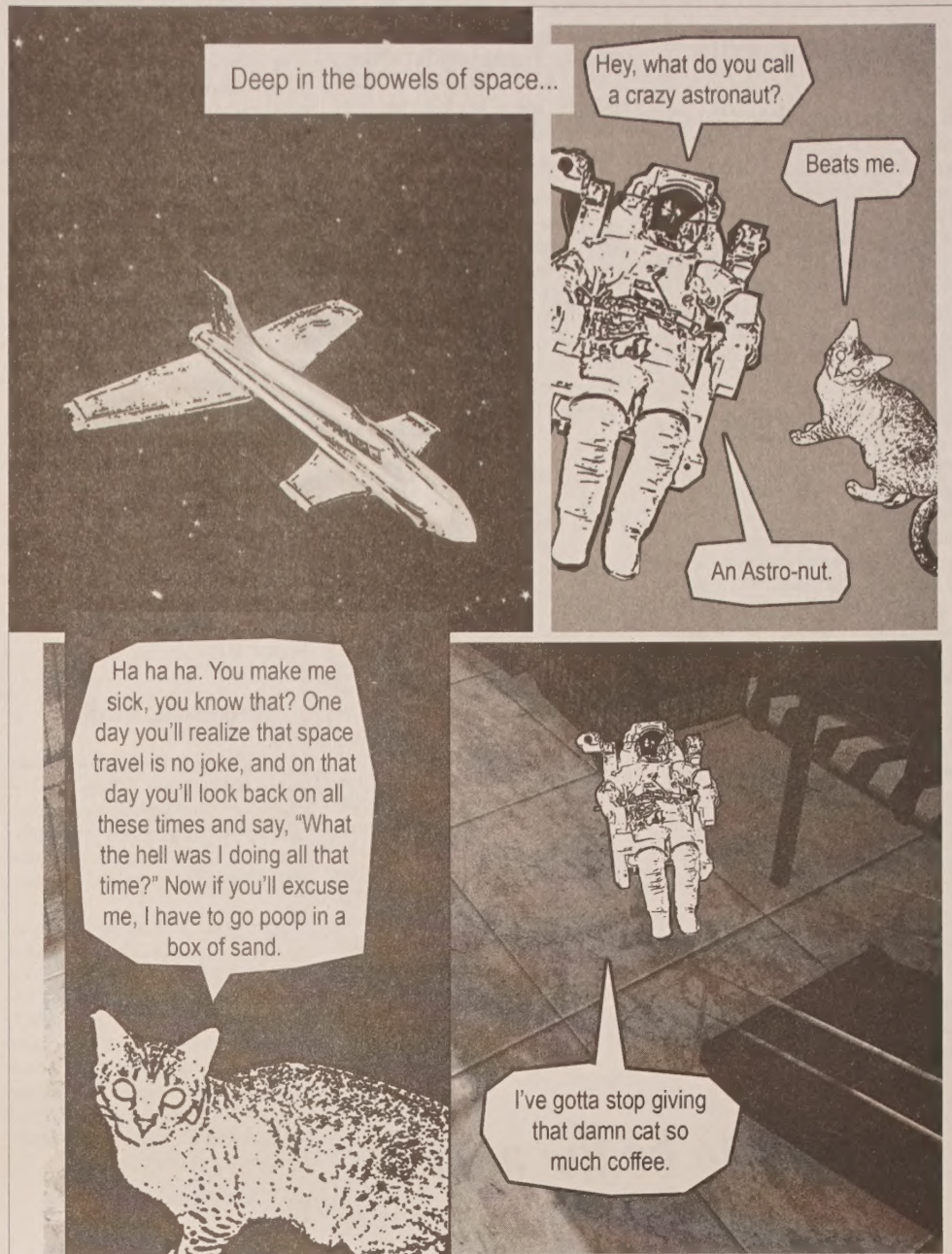
One Fry Short

by Matt Diamond



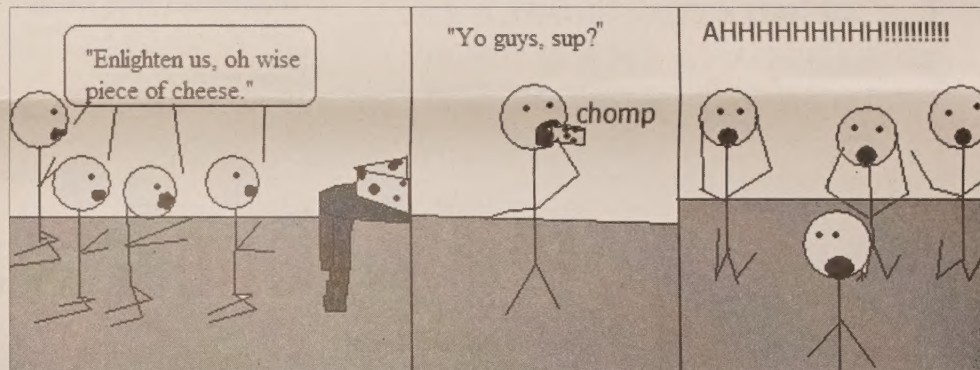
In Search of the Sand Planet

by William Parschalk



Wasted Ink

by Nate Min



Spot The Differences

by Matt Hansen

The malevolent graphics staff has altered certain details between the first and second photographs. Can you find all seven changes in the second photograph?



CALENDAR

CALENDAR MAR. 8-MAR. 21



Campus Events

Thursday, March 8

8 a.m. Type For Life will be holding a free bone marrow registration drive all day at the Bloomberg School of Public Health's Feinstone Hall. The goal of the drive is to increase the diversity and number of registrants in the National Marrow Donor Program Registry. For more information e-mail tfl@jhsph.edu.

Friday, March 9

9 a.m. The Humanities Center is sponsoring "The Limits of Intelligibility," a graduate student conference. The keynote speaker is Samuel Weber of Northwestern University. This event is happening in Gilman 110. The second half of the conference is on Saturday. For a full itinerary visit <http://www.limitsofintelligibility.com>.

8 p.m. Don't rush out for Spring Break too fast: first come to the Mudd Hall auditorium for a presentation of the newest Bond film, *Casino Royale*. This free event is brought to you by the HOP's Friday Night Films series.

Saturday, March 10

9 a.m. On Saturday, the Humanities Center will hold the second half of the graduate student conference "The Limits of Intelligibility."

ty." The keynote speaker is Samuel Weber of Northwestern University. This event is happening in Gilman 110. For a full itinerary visit <http://www.limitsofintelligibility.com>.

1 p.m. Discover more than 200 years of local history surrounding the collections of American decorative arts at Homewood House and the Baltimore Museum of Art on a free walking tour. Guided ArtWalk tours depart at 1 p.m. from Homewood Museum and 2 p.m. from the BMA. Call Homewood at 410-516-5589 for reservations.

Sunday, March 11

2 p.m. Enjoy a demonstration of pysanky, the art of Ukrainian egg decorating, with Nestor Topchy and his mother Nora. The program is offered in conjunction with the exhibition *Building a Legacy: Evergreen Scholars at MICA*, on view through June 3. It's happening at the Evergreen House and is free with museum admission.

5:30 p.m. The Shriver Hall Concert Series presents the Kavafian-Schub-Shifrin Trio performing several selections from Mozart, Brahms and Bartok. There will be a pre-concert reception at 4:30 in the Shriver Hall Clipper Room. Tickets are free for Hopkins students. General admission is \$33 and \$17 for non-Hopkins students. For more information call (410) 516-7164.

Saturday, March 17

12 p.m. Looking for a new friend? Come to the Homewood House Museum this weekend to meet the Maryland SPCA's adoptable pets. The SPCA will also be accepting donations of pet supplies. While there, you can also view Homewood's winter exhibition *Feathers, Fins, and Fur: The Pet in Early Maryland*. Admission is \$3 for students. For more information call the Homewood House Museum at (410) 516-5589.

1 p.m. Discover more than 200 years of local history surrounding the collections of American decorative arts at Homewood House and the Baltimore Museum of Art on a free walking tour. Guided ArtWalk tours depart at 1 p.m. from Homewood Museum and 2 p.m. from the BMA. Call Homewood at 410-516-5589 for reservations.

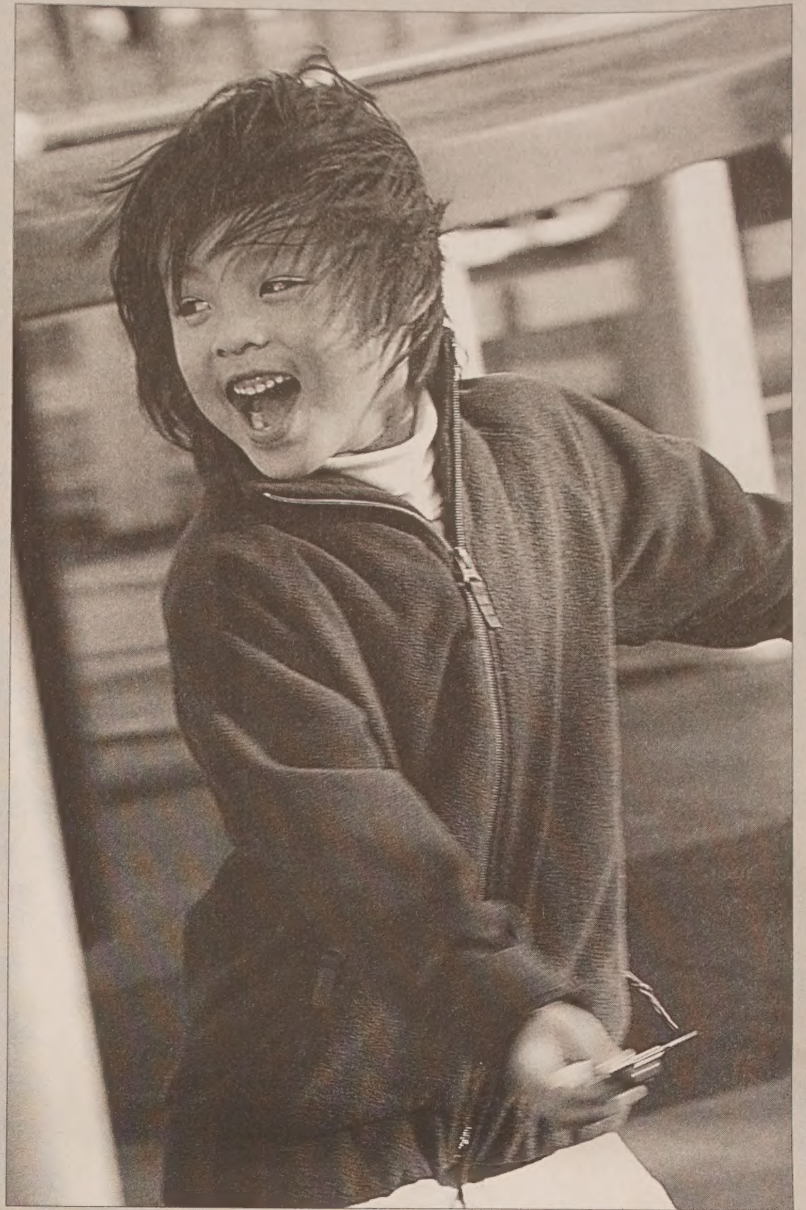
Wednesday, March 21

7 p.m. Come to the Charles Commons Kitchen for "Rules of Engagement," a discussion of important skills and proper etiquette for interviews. The talk, sponsored by JHU Dining, is completely free.

7 p.m. The Baltimore Museum of Art is hosting "Conversations with Photographers," a discussion moderated by Hopkins Professor Michael Fried and BMA Senior Curator of Contemporary Art Darsie Alexander. Thomas Demand and James Dwelling will be the featured guests in attendance to discuss issues in contemporary photography.

Exposure

By Angeli Bueno

Want to be the next
Calendar editor?

If you have layout or content experience, or if you just want to get more involved in the *News-Letter*, contact us at news.letter@jhu.edu.

Got an Event?

Send details about future events including date, time, location and a brief summary of the event to events@jhunewsletter.com. Please e-mail all events by the Monday before publication.

Concerts and Clubs

Thursday, March 8

Tonight, Philly rappers The Roots are performing at the Lyric Opera House with special guests Lupe Fiasco and Little Brother. Tickets are available through the HOP or at <http://www.ticketmaster.com>. For more information visit <http://www.lyricoperahouse.com>.

Daughters, Chinese Stars and Plaguewielder will hit the Ottobar stage. Doors open at 9 p.m. See <http://www.theottobar.com> for more details.

Come to the Sonar club room tonight to enjoy \$5 Absolut drinks while DJ Charles Feel-good spins the hottest tunes. In the lounge, Hip-Hop Dan and guests will be spinning your favorite hip-hop, '80s and rock tracks. For more information visit <http://www.sonar.us>.

Friday, March 9

The Rams Head Live will welcome rockers Sister Hazel and the Pat McGee Band Friday night! Doors open at 8 p.m. See <http://www.ramsheadlive.com> for more information.

The Walkmen, The Broken West and Ferraby Lionheart are set to rock the Ottobar this weekend. Doors open at 9 p.m. Check out <http://www.theottobar.com> for details.

Yo Majesty will be performing on the Sonar club stage this Friday with Cullen Stain and Chris O. In the lounge, dance the night away as Dava Nada DJs. Come before 11 p.m. and get \$1 drinks! Go to <http://www.sonar.us> for more information.

At An die Musik on Friday, come see some of France's most accomplished jazz musi-

cians as part of the Embassy of France Music Series. The band Panamanouche will be playing two shows, at 8 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. For more information visit <http://www.andiemusiklive.com>.

Saturday, March 10

Badfish will be putting on a tribute to Sublime this weekend. Renowned for their ability to channel the band's true spirit, they'll be at the Rams Head Live at 7 p.m. For more information check out <http://www.ramsheadlive.com>.

Gomez and Ben Kweller will be taking over the Sonar mainstage on Saturday night. Meanwhile, Aaron LaCrate, Rod Lee and Debonair Samir will be rocking the club room. Doors for both shows open at 8 p.m. Visit <http://www.sonar.us> for more details.

Baltimore punk rockers Thrushes will celebrate their CD release at the Ottobar this Saturday. They will be joined by Palomar, the Squaaks and Avec. For more information see <http://www.theottobar.com>.

Towson's Recher Theatre will be hosting a Local Spotlight Showcase this weekend. Featured local acts include Juicebox Heroes, Blue Bay, Kalmia and more. Doors open at 4 p.m. For a complete list of bands visit <http://www.recher-theatre.com>.

This Saturday at An die Musik, violinist Tao-Chang Yu will be performing a tribute to Pablo de Sarasate for an afternoon of Spanish dances! Then, in the evening, jazz pianist Dave Burrell will put on two great shows (8 and 9:30 p.m.) with the help of bassist Michael Formanek and drummer Guillermo Brown. For more information visit <http://www.andiemusiklive.com>.

Sunday, March 11

Switchfoot will be performing at the Rams Head Live this weekend with Copeland. Doors open at 7 p.m. Check out <http://www.ramsheadlive.com> for more information.

The Ottobar will be rocking hard this Sunday with a Black Sabbath and Black Flag tribute show! With acts like Damaged Bloody Damaged, Triac, Lovers and Killers, Dactyl, the Exponentials, Trephine and more, who needs the real thing? Doors open at 7 p.m. Find out more at <http://www.theottobar.com>.

Sunday night at the Recher, come see Filmore, Sinjin, the Company and Sown. Doors open at 6 p.m. For more information visit <http://www.rechertheatre.com>.

Monday, March 12

You won't want to miss this one. Indie rockers The Shins will be performing at DAR Constitution Hall in D.C. on Monday. Buy tickets at <http://www.ticketmaster.com> or find out more at <http://www.dar.org/conthall>.

Need a good laugh? Enjoy mocking the general public? Then come to the Rams Head Live on Monday to see caustic comedian Janeane Garofolo. Check out <http://www.ramsheadlive.com> for more details.

This and every Monday, Peabody jazz students will be performing at An die Musik. Jeff Chang (saxophone), Devin Arne (guitar), Blake Meister (bass) and Shareef Taher (drums) will be performing original compositions in addition to jazz standards. For more information visit <http://www.andiemusiklive.com>.

"Baltimore Musicians in Film and Song" is a tribute to lo-



COURTESY OF [HTTP://WWW.JUGGALO.HU](http://www.juggalo.hu)

The Insane Clown Posse will host a release party for *The Tempest* at Rams Head Live! Don't miss out, it's gonna be wild.

cal artists happening at An die Musik. Some of those to be honored are Billie Holiday, Eubie Blake and Cab Calloway. It starts at 7 p.m. For more information visit <http://www.andiemusiklive.com>.

Tuesday, March 13

On Tuesday, the Rams Head Live will welcome Public Enemy. The show, which celebrates the 20th anniversary of the group, will feature Chuck D, Flavor Flav, Professor Griff and the SIW's. Special guests include X-Clan and the Banned. For more information check out <http://www.ramsheadlive.com>.

Slim Cessnas Auto Club, Thrills-

Wednesday, March 14

Come check out the Sonar mainstage on Wednesday night to see Mewithoutyou, Sparta and Aloha. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Visit <http://www.sonar.us> for more information.

Thursday, March 15

Singer-songwriter Will Hoge will be in town next Thursday. The Nashville native will be per-

forming at the 8x10 Club. Go to <http://www.the8x10.com> for more details.

Insane Clown Posse is bringing their release party tour to Baltimore next week to celebrate their latest album, *The Tempest*, at Rams Head Live. The show will feature performances by Dead by Wednesday, Wolfpac, Boondox, Anamide and Stars of JCW.

Physical fitness and hard drinking will finally come together next Thursday at the Ottobar. Punk Rope, the punk rock aerobics class, will be happening at 8 p.m. and 10 p.m. Check out <http://www.theottobar.com> for additional information.

News-Letter Business Staff Openings

Interested? Contact
business@jhunewsletter.com

BUSINESS DIRECTOR (1)

- Directs all facets of business: marketing, advertising, accounts and circulation.
- Works with the Editors-in-Chief to augment business operations and the financial health of the News-Letter.
- Salaried position.
- Must be extremely responsible, organized, dedicated and have initiative; forward thinking and innovation is essential, and prior experience in business management is necessary.

ADVERTISING MANAGER (1)

- Maintains classified, print and internet advertisements.
- Responsible for placing advertisements in weekly issues of the News-Letter.
- Maintains quality of advertisements and coordinates ad placement with editorial staff and graphics staff.
- Salaried position.
- Must be detail-oriented and organized; some knowledge of Photoshop, InDesign desired, but not required.

CIRCULATION MANAGER (1)

- Oversees subscriptions and manages existing subscriber database.
- Creates and implements strategies in order to boost general circulation.
- Coordinates with the distribution staff to facilitate optimal delivery channels.
- Salaried position.
- Must be responsible, organized, and detail oriented.

DISTRIBUTION STAFF (2)

- Delivers the News-Letter the day of print to all our distribution sites on- and off-campus.
- Works with Circulation Manager to map out high traffic areas and implement prominent visibility locales.
- Salaried position.
- Must be extremely responsible and diligent.

MARKETING MANAGER (1)

- In charge of maintaining contact with advertisers - student groups, University departments, local and national, while preparing ads for publication in the News-Letter.
- Directs and manages a team of up to five marketing representatives in soliciting ads and promoting the News-Letter to potential advertisers.
- Organizes records of advertisement sales, and keeps an accurate database of all clientele.
- Salaried position.
- Must be extremely responsible, organized, dedicated and have initiative; prior experience in marketing/advertising a MUST.

ACCOUNTS MANAGER (1)

- Manages client accounts and facilitates invoicing.
- Maintains News-Letter financial records.
- Responsible for providing twice-monthly summaries of revenue/expenditures.
- Salaried position.
- Must be responsible, organized, and familiar with income statements; prior experience/accounting coursework a plus.

MARKETING ASSOCIATES (3)

- Obtain advertisements from local and national businesses.
- Work with Marketing Director to ensure good communication with all advertisers.
- Aid Marketing Director in market research and market strategy implementation.
- Receive 10 percent commission on all advertisements sold.
- Prior marketing experience desired, but not required.

PAID ADVERTISEMENTS

Advertise in our special Best of Baltimore issue

Hitting newsstands April 12



Reserve ad space today!
business@jhunewsletter.com
 410-516-4228



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 Mondawmin Mall
 2401 Liberty Heights Avenue
 (410) 523-0753
 White Marsh Mall
 8200 Perry Hall Boulevard
 (410) 931-4201
 Reisterstown Plaza
 410-318-6697

BEL AIR
 Harford Mall
 664 Baltimore Pike
 (410) 638-7196

CATONSVILLE
 Westview Shopping Center
 410-455-0206

COLUMBIA
 Columbia Mall (M)
 410-772-9424
 Columbia Mall
 10300 Little Patuxent Parkway
 (410) 730-7284
 6435 Dobbin Road

ESSEX
 Middlesex Shopping Ctr. (M)
 410-238-7460
GLEN BURNIE
 Marley Station (M)
 410-590-2820
 6731 Ritchie Highway
 410-766-7669

HANOVER
 Arundel Mills (M)
 443-755-0922

LAUREL
 Laurel Shopping Center
 240-456-0455
OWINGS MILLS
 Owings Mills Town Ctr. (M)
 410-902-7080
 Valley Center
 410-356-5880

REISTERTOWN
 Franklin Retail Ctr. (M)
 410-833-5773

ROSEDALE
 Centre at Golden Ring
 410-918-0707
TOWSON
 Towson Town Ctr. (M)
 410-583-2576
 Towson Town Center
 825 Dulany Valley Road
 (410) 494-1085
 Towson Circle
 410-296-7100

WESTMINSTER
 Town Mall of Westminster (M)
 410-871-9945

PREFERRED DEALERS
BALTIMORE
 ATC Communications
 410-882-5150

ATC Communications
 (410) 298-0202
 Baltimore Business
 Communications
 410-752-1778
 Digi-Tel
 443-703-2155
 TeleGente
 410-732-5500
 Wilmer Communications
 410-528-8313
 Wilmer Communications
 410-288-5020
BEL AIR
 Compass Wireless
 410-836-9900
BOWIE
 First Choice Communications
 (301) 860-1953

DUMMALK
 Compass Wireless
 410-284-5900
EDGEWATER
 Wilmer Communications
 410-956-3533

ELKRIE
 Wilmer Communications
 410-796-1200

ELKRIE CITY
 Compass Wireless
 410-203-9960

ODENTON
 First Choice Communications
 (410) 672-2877

OWINGS MILLS
 Digi-Tel
 410-833-7003

PARKVILLE
 Baltimore
 Business Communications, Inc.
 410-308-0808

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 Baltimore Business
 Communications
 410-876-1111

WHITE MARSH
 Compass Wireless
 410-335-8340

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